

INSIDE

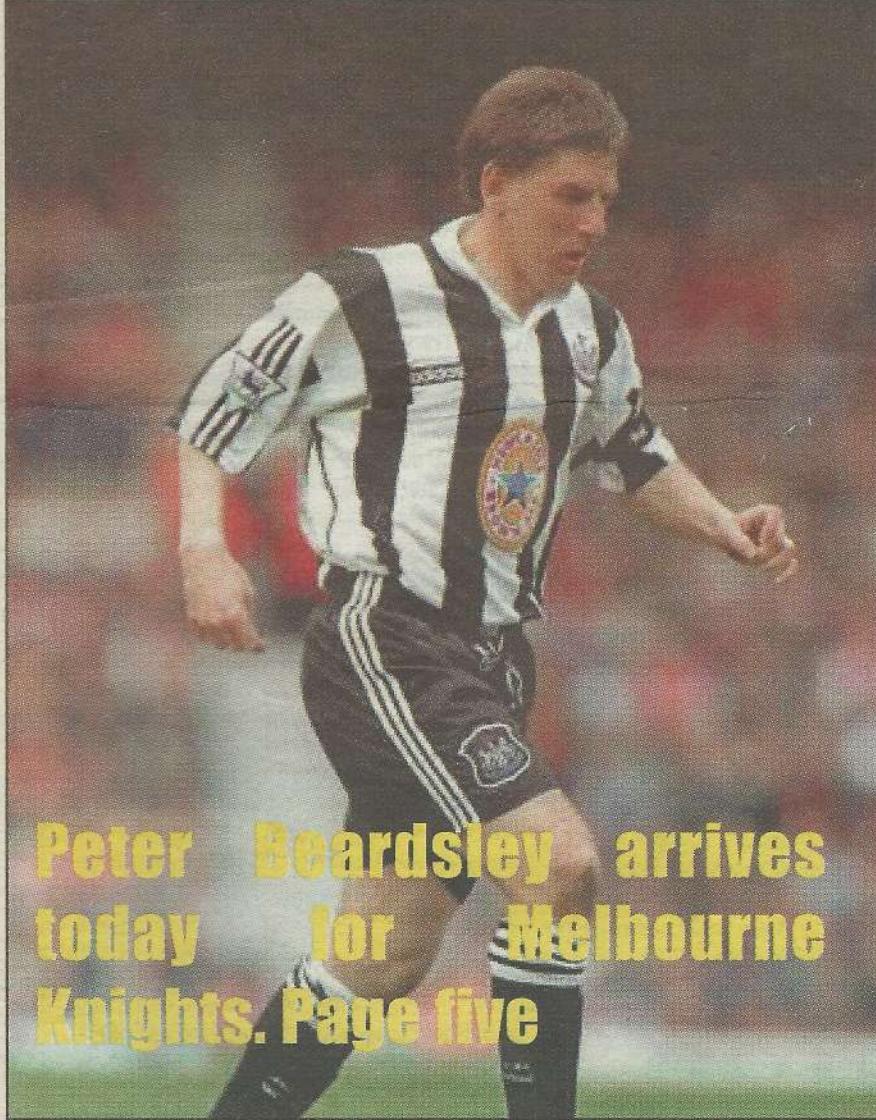
Your quality Australian weekly soccer paper for the new millennium

# SOCER

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## PEOPLE POWER WINS IN PERTH



**Peter Beardsley arrives today for Melbourne Knights. Page five**

**T**he people of Perth have spoken. After unprecedented scenes following owner and majority shareholder Nick Tana's decision not to offer Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange a new contract, Tana bowed to public pressure and offered to recommend to the Perth Glory board that the German coach be offered a one-year contract after this season has finished.

Glory coach Bernd Stange said he had never seen such a reaction by the public.

"This has never happened to me in 27 years of coaching. I am very happy," he said.

After doing so much the least Stange can do now for these fans is take up the offer that is being put to him.

Before last Sunday's home game against Canberra Cosmos Glory fans protested outside the ground. They were told of Tana's U-turn ten minutes before kick-off.

It is believed that Tana's decision was influenced not only by the fans but by the club's many sponsors.

The Glory chairman Tana - who commands huge respect for making Perth Glory Australia's biggest soccer club in such a short time - preferred to talk about his long-term "masterplan."

"I have always maintained," he explained, "that I wanted long-term commitment and future for the club. Yesterday I recommended a one-year contract for Bernd, but people must wait for another month or so

before things unfold with regard to the masterplan."

Tana refused to elaborate on this other than to say it involved "Bernd and the coaching needs in the future of Perth Glory.

"Everyone will then realize yes, there was a reason," he said cryptically.

"To say people power won is not correct although the fans' reaction served to accelerate my decision.

"I have said publicly yesterday that I made a mistake. My mistake was not speaking fully about this with Bernd before coming to the decision. I did that yesterday morning with Bernd Stange.

"The offer is a concept in the short-term and then there is the future. Only in my mind is where the masterplan is.

"If people want to criticize me in the meantime I don't mind, but I think fans will be pleasantly surprised with the outcome when it is announced.

"The game has to go forward. I will never allow politics to get in the way of Perth Glory," he added.

In other news from Glory, it is believed that exciting youngster Ivan Ergic has received a number of lucrative offers from Europe, mainly from Germany.

He is likely to see out his present contract with Glory, thus enabling him (at the end of next season) to leave without a transfer fee, thus pocketing an expected million dollar plus fee.

Not bad for a kid who has not even been selected in the Olyroos.

**PFA/Spirit dispute  
Judge slams Schwab's tactics.  
NSL reform decision  
Scarsella tells clubs to sign up.  
Socceroos in Hungary  
Nothing fishy about Farina's first win.**



# Crooky

Instead of dwell on what might have been following our 3-1 loss to Sydney Olympic I would like to state what a great side Branko Culina has put together this year.

The first 25 minutes of the match was unbelievable. They came at us with everything and we had no answers to the speed and skill of Cardozo, Arambasic, Carle, Emerton and Mendez.

When we saw the team sheet we knew they were going to have a go as they selected a very attacking side but we weren't prepared for the opening exchanges.

At 2-0 down after just 23 minutes I was thinking this could be anything, but to our credit Northern Spirit knuckled down and we had the better of play for a 30 minute period either side of half time.

Robbie Slater, who was absolutely magnificent for us, scored a well deserved goal on 38 minutes and we were right back in the match when we went to the sheds.

After the break we also took control until Pablo Cardozo put the game beyond doubt with a great finish in the 58th minute.

That was the difference. Sydney Olympic took advantage of its dominance and scored goals where as we couldn't break them down.

I thought we were unlucky when Emerton cleared Abbas Saad's shot off the line and the Abbas cleared Sean Cranney's shot off the line by accident.



If they went in it would have been a totally different picture.

But, to be fair, Sydney Olympic had plenty of opportunities and if it wasn't for Paul Henderson, who is back to his best, they could have scored a couple more.

For us the best point to come out of the match was the form of Simon Catanzaro. Simon came onto the field after 25 minutes when Saad injured his hamstring and he looked right at home in the NSL.

He has played 10 games so far this season - all off the bench - but I think he is ready to start a match for us for the first time.

That may well happen against Wollongong on Friday night at North Sydney Oval but we will wait and see.

Adam Griffiths also had a good game while our best player was Robbie Slater.

It amazes me how much work he gets through in a game and he didn't stop running or trying for us on Sunday.

Ian Crook,  
Northern Spirit and England

## INSIDE SOCCER

PO BOX 3889  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

PHONE: (02) 9806 0554  
FAX: (02) 9806 0553

MANAGING EDITOR: JOHN VRTARIC

Email: johnv@insidesoccer.com.au

EDITOR: AIDAN ORMOND

Email: editor@insidesoccer.com.au

Correspondents:

MELBOURNE: GREG BLAKE, MARK FISHER

Sydney: ROGER SLEEMAN, BEN CUBBY

IS's VALUED CONTRIBUTORS:

Alan Clark, Kevin Christopher, Melissa Muscat, Margaret Bowden, Stephen Webb, Donald Campbell, Paul Goodwin, Chris Dunkerley, Cameron Atfield, Lucio Viggiano, Dennis Gedling, Jeremy Ruane, Chris Conti, Richard Beazley, Michael Kmet, Mark Fowler, Daniela Raco, Anissa Tann-Darby, Ian Crook, Nick Guoth, Grant Stantall, Roy Hay, Robert Szoszkiewicz, Stuart Jones, Peter Smith, Steve Oldridge, Steve Wilson, Anita Bulan, Scott O'Donnell, Markian Jaworsky.

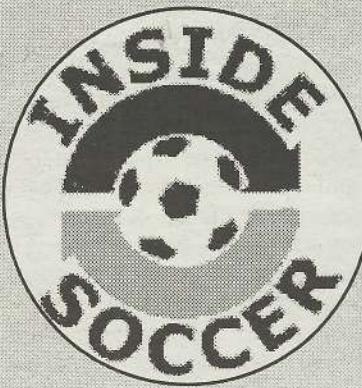
ADVERTISING: SYDNEY: JOHN VRTARIC  
(02) 9806 0554 or 0412 698 185  
ROGER SLEEMAN (02) 9806 0554  
MELBOURNE: GREG BLAKE (03) 9370 1217

Photography: Allsport, Joe Palos, Brett Kluznik, Matt Curtis, Michael Cronin

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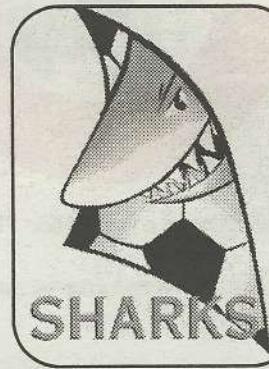
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## Southern Sharks set for launch

The South of Sydney has long been thought of as a potential base for an NSL club. Now, that seems a possibility.

Later this week the Showroom at Sharks International in Cronulla will host a get together by a group of business people keen on seeking support from all sections of the local community.

Spokesperson Pauline McFetridge said there would be more information given out on the day, but she was "very excited at the prospect".



of having a team representing such a dynamic soccer region of Sydney in the NSL."

You can enter the auction to win prizes (including a Matildas Calendar and a Robbie Slater signed autobiography 'The Hard Way, courtesy of Inside Soccer) and there will be a chance to win an Inside Soccer subscription in the raffle.

Inside Soccer will be there to find out what the buzz is on the Southern Sharks, so read next week.

## S-news

Inside Soccer's Australian news

### SOCCEROO SPIRIT IS BACK

It's great to hear that the Socceroos get on as well off the park as they do on. After the game against Hungary the entire squad went out for post-match drinks, returning at about 4am. to their hotel. The Socceroo spirit is back. Good to see. Ned who?

### POOR BONNIE

Due to the time differences between Hungary, Chile and Australia, Frank Farina's PA, Bonnie Mersiades, was fielding calls at all hours of the morning every single night during these games. Perhaps SA should send her family a bouquet. Or better still, send her overseas next time?

### INSPIRATIONAL STORY

Barely 18 months ago Lee Sterrey was an unknown coach set for his rookie season at Newcastle. The club was considered a minnow, finals footy had never been seen there, the club was shortly to be up for sale, and he had about eight players (one of which was 17) signed. Last Friday night they went top of the league in front of over 7,000 fans. An inspiration to any club out there.

### BABY SPIDER

Zeljko Kalac was straight on an early flight out from Hungary last week as his wife, Diana, went into labour. She had a baby girl, Abby, before he got back to Maastricht. Congratulations to the Kalacs and welcome Abby Kalac. And belated congratulations to Alex Tobin, who is the proud father of Aidan Patrick Tobin. IS editor Aidan Ormond was most impressed!

### BOUTSI'S THUMBS UP

Glory sensation Con Boutsianis was unequivocal when speaking about the all-new and vastly improved Hindmarsh. "It's the best in Australia, without a doubt," said Boutsi. "All clubs should be looking at getting this type of stadium built. The surface is unbelievable." Glory will probably play any finals games at Subiaco, with a 40,000 capacity, but surely it's time for the purpose-built stadium?

### PLAYER RUMOURS

Steve Laybutt has three clubs chasing him, one being an English Premier League side. Scott Miller, John Buonavoglia and Robbie Middleby wanted by Carlton? Buonavoglia however is likely to receive a very good offer from the Breakers.

### GLASGOW? DULL?

Ever wondered what Mark Viduka's life is like? Word has it a couple of Rangers fans threw a bottle at the big man while he was in the city with his lady and a

Celtic teammate. "WHO THE F\*CK THREW THAT AT ME! WHO THE F\*CK!" boomed the V-bomber before the teammate restrained him. Viduka gave gratitude to the police who swiftly caught a couple of thugs. Who said life in Glasgow was dull for our big Socceroo and Ivana?

### VPL CLUB ON THE WEB

Green Gully is a club with style. Not only do they have an impressive facility in Melbourne, but they have 'got hip' and decided to go on the worldwide web. Fans can log on at [www.greengully.com.au](http://www.greengully.com.au). Cool site. Cool club. They play Oakleigh this weekend.

### SURJAN CUTS LOOSE

Amidst all the justified, hullabaloo surrounding Wollongong Wolves' audacious grab for a first NSL title, came the news last week that stalwart Anthony Surjan has quit the club. Frustrated at the lack of game time in the increasingly strong Wolves squad, the elegant 30-year-old with the infectious smile has decided his new home will be at state level. Wolves fans will no doubt be wishing him all the best. Let's hope he can return to the NSL at some point? Meanwhile, if you ever want to see big defender Dave Cervinski, go the Lagoon Seafood restaurant in Stuart Park, or any 7-Eleven! Seems that every time he wins best on ground he gets a voucher for these two fine establishments. Teammate Stuart Young says, jokingly, 'some of the players are starting to ask questions.'

### CABBIE BLABBLING

It's amazing what taxi drivers hear. One cabby picked up a Sydney-based player who, over the course of their footy conversation, blabbed about a player the club is wanting to sign. The club, naturally did not want it made public yet, so we won't tell. Let that be a lesson, S-news is everywhere! As it turned out, however, the player has re-signed with his club.

### IS THIS A RECORD?

We're calling the Guinness Book of Records! Every time Cosmos' Ivo de Jesus comes to Sydney, he scores (on the football field!). Marconi, Power, Olympic, Spirit have all put the name 'de Jesus' on their scoreboard since the striker/midfielder returned to the NSL early last year. He also scored two in Perth on the weekend.

### KEEPER'S ARMS

It's the name of a football pub in North Melbourne. So come in out of that AFL-soaked city and enjoy the real footy atmosphere. The Keeper kicked off last week by showing the Socceroos destroy Hungary. Good omen?

# The GST and Soccer

## New tax starting to hit home: what are the ramifications?

By Aidan Ormond

Prime Minister John Howard likes to espouse ideas on what it means to be Australian. He even tried (unsuccessfully) to write 'mateship' into the nation's constitution. Sport is another facet the PM likes to promote as being a part of what it means to be Australian.

Soccer, however, is under threat from the GST, a tax due for implementation in four months' time.

Nationally, Soccer rates very highly in participation rates, particularly with juniors. And, it is still considered a game predominantly played - unlike Rugby Union for example - by working men and women of Australia and their children (particularly

with the high migrant participation rates.) Even John Howard's son is a keen amateur soccer player.

Yet junior soccer referees, who referee games for players as young as six years old, have already been hit by the Howard Government's GST, Shadow Minister for Sport, Senator Kate Lundy, said.

Registration fees for junior referees for this year's winter season, which commences next month, include provision for the GST from 1 July 2000.

The 2000 Membership Application for Soccer Referees Canberra includes the GST component.

"This shows that junior referees, some as young as 11 and 12, are being caught up in the GST net because they are prepared to be available to referee matches for primary school players.

"Mr Howard and Mr Costello should explain why their Goods and Services Tax treats a 12-year-old refereeing an under-7 soccer match as a taxable economic service," Senator Lundy said.

"This is taxation gone mad.

"Does it mean that

when Mr Howard promised that nobody would be worse off under his new tax, he forgot to exclude junior volunteer amateur soccer referees?" Senator Lundy asked.

This is just one example of how the GST will affect Australian Soccer. There are others too, such as tickets to NSL and Socceroo games, replica shirts, ground hire, equipment etc.

In fairness, the government would argue that with reductions in various taxes, such as wholesale sales tax, and in income tax, the GST effects will be offset.

Clothing and footwear may be more expensive in many cases with GST, as may the cost of some services (depending on whether the provider of those services has off-sets) but many sports items, which presently attract a wholesale sales tax of 22 percent will be significantly cheaper.

Yet as Australia's weekly soccer newspaper, while we do take note of the general affect a GST will have, it is Soccer - the people's game - that we are mostly concerned with.

There has not been a statement by the government on how one of the country's biggest (and most powerful) voting blocs, Soccer, will be affected by the imposition of a GST.

Organisations such as junior soccer clubs - in fact any sports club - that has an annual turnover of less than \$100,000 - do not have to apply for a GST number, yet everything, from hiring referees, to equipment, posts, kits, shin pads, hot dogs etc.

will attract a GST, which may lead to increased registration fees to cover.

Even governing bodies at the various levels may have to impose a GST on aspects such as insurance and club memberships.

The federal government passed the buck when Inside Soccer sought clarification of these points. The Minister for Sport Jackie Kelly is currently on leave. Her Sydney electorate passed this request onto their Canberra office, which, in turn, directed us to the Tax Reform Units attached to the Federal Treasury Peter Costello's office.

They did not return our calls.

Last week the *The Australian* newspaper published surveys that showed a growing distrust of the GST among Australians.

The Confederation of Sport (of which Soccer Australia is a part) has done some independent research on the GST and its effect on sport. Their spokesperson was unavailable for comment but Inside Soccer hopes to speak with them to find out exactly what Australia's Soccer community will be up for with the imposing of a GST.

We can only hope that it doesn't turn potential fans and players away from not only Soccer, but any sport.

This is one issue we will follow closely.



# The Spirit

versus

## Wollongong Wolves

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**GREG BLAKE**  
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR  
grblake@primus.com.au



I don't know about sexy football, but I certainly had the passions aroused by having the good fortune to call the action for C7 when Wollongong hosted Olympic in the league's one-versus-two battle a week ago.

Best game of the season; by a street.

Maybe it was just one of those days when everything about the day conspired to drag an otherwise run-of-the-mill regular season fixture into memorable event territory.

The Wollongong crowd went way off the wacky meter; travelling Olympic supporters responded; the referee, Matty Breeze, let the big boys play big boys' footy.

But what must be acknowledged is the huge part that both teams and their coaches played in the drama; their collective approach was a joy.

The stakes were pretty big, yet both Nick Theodorakopoulos' Wolves and Branko Culina's Olympic allowed their richly talented teams to attack the game and chase a scoreboard win - as it should be.

None of the stoic, percentage rubbish often associated with big games.

No restrictive "result" chasing on this day, with both teams apparently dedicated to clobbering out a victory and the likes of Pablo Cardozo, Brett Emerton, Matty Horsley, Scott Chipperfield, Scotty Thomas, Nick Carle, Dino Mennillo, Alvin Ceccoli (and seriously, the list could go on) all producing at least glimpses of their glittering best in a game which dazzled.

Breadth of vision, swift attacking and counter-attacking, un-nerving physical commitment and risk-taking from the opening bell until Breeze called it off at 1-1.

It's days like this which serve to remind me of just how breathtaking this game and this splendid domestic competition can be.

Should have been the grand final, although I suspect neither club would have the nerve to attack the biggest game on the domestic calendar with

such a cavalier approach?

The Wollongong grandstand 'wall of noise' against Olympic was as loud as any crowd I've heard this season, perhaps just edging the feral mob at Newcastle for venom and volume.

These days both Brandon Park and Birmingham Gardens pulsate with energy; the local teams are winning and the parochial, one-eyed locals are passionate, proud and loud.

Winning seasons are few and far between for both clubs - as they have been for Canberra Cosmos and Gippsland - yet the latter pair is often first mentioned as clubs likely to fold when restructuring of the competition commences.

Yet, having seen plenty of the Falcons during their one fleeting season of glory - when they went to the finals in 94/95 - I've no doubt that Gippsland would once again become the hottest sports ticket in the area if they started winning

again.

Canberra - and its delightful Bruce Stadium home - has got some wonderful support that dies harder than most, but that club's box office potential will remain just that until they start winning regularly.

We lost Canberra to the game once, letting the Raiders and Cannons march into the ACT; just as we let go of Newcastle long enough to let the Knights and Falcons crash the market place.

Based on the slumping crowds in the major soccer centres, perhaps we should extend the NSL influence further into the regional centres.

As far as I'm concerned, dump these clubs at your peril.

I'd go as far as to say that Soc. Aus. should be planning to prop up the likes of Canberra and Gippsland for as long as it takes to ensure they turn it around a la Newcastle, but I can already hear the squeals and bleats from the Melbourne and Sydney big-shots at the very thought.

Anyway, the game has never planned that far ahead, so why start now?

I reckon the best story of the Newcastle revival is the taste of success and sudden national profile of the club's 'franchise' players; blokes who've seen the club through just about all the hard times and are suddenly elevated to key player status on a contending team.

Probably rated as 'plodders' for much of their careers, fellows like skipper, Shane Pryce, Todd McManus, Mark Wilson, club games record holder Andy Roberts and Glenn Sprod have played most or all of their footy at Birmingham Gardens for little or no reward.

"It's a different feeling, for sure," says 25-year-old Breakers stalwart, Mark Wilson.

"We've always been down the ladder a bit, so I guess we're just getting used to it a bit."

"It's still reasonably low key though, because we know we've still got a job to do and we don't take much notice of the press."

"But it's a big buzz to be where we are and I'm thrilled, don't worry about that."

Which makes you wonder about the how long a couple of blokes going around for Canberra Cosmos can keep the low profiles.

One plays like an absolute world-beater every time I see him live and the another who's on-field persona kinda just jumps out at you.

Paul (PJ) Roberts is apparently already cult figure amongst Cosmos fans, but the little bloke can play a bit and I've twice seen him completely cut up highly credentialed opponents.

Danny Burt is an awesome figure - although the big bald scone helps him stand out - who can dominate a game with his presence.

Burt is big, strong, tough and committed and, according to Cosmos assistant coach, Tony Brennan - not a bloke known to indulge in the wacky weed - the "best header of a ball I've ever seen."

Brennan's been around a bit, so we'll take him at his word.

Point is, I reckon you put Burt and Roberts in winning teams and you've got household names.



Colossus: Olympic's midfield dynamo Scott Thomas.

Got a couple of e-mails from Marconi fans having hissy fits about my recent comment that Marconi Stadium on match days now is mausoleum-quiet compared to the halcyon days when the 'Green Machine' ruled.

However I got some back-up e-mail from a couple of footy fans who recently watched Marconi edge past Sydney United and they too said the lack of crowd support at the ground "was quite eerie."

"As both teams entered the field the crowd was silent, not a cheer was heard," according to Matthew and his mate.

"This occurred throughout the entire match and threw us both off guard, considering we are both quite vocal."

"Why are they so quiet?"

Who knows, but given the hush-hush sneaky stuff we've heard from behind the scenes at Marconi Stadium recently maybe even the club's supporters are reduced to whispers.

I mean, you wouldn't want to open your mouth and get Bernd, would you?

Newcastle boss, Lee Sterrey, would give his players a week off training to get Scott Thomas back into the fold at Birmingham Gardens.

Well, that's a gross exaggeration, as Sterrey would never give his players a week off training.

But I reckon there's not a club in the country that wouldn't put their hand up for Thomas at the moment, who is currently burning for league leaders Sydney Olympic.

There's a few at Olympic pushing themselves to the next level this season - Lindsay Wilson and Ante Juric, for example.

Anyone who's fair dinkum has got to concede that you wouldn't have backed Olympic with bad money for the title pre-season, yet aside from the goalkeeping "dilemma", Culina's team hasn't done too much wrong.

And even that goalkeeping riddle of George Bouhoutsos against Jimmy Kourtis hasn't had too damaging an effect, with Olympic's defence ranked a clear number one in the league coming into round 23.

And just a brief well done to Sir Frank, for getting his maiden win as Socceroo coach, as the Aussies belted Hungary 3-0 in Budapest late last week.

Although a consummate diplomat, poor Sir Frank was starting to take on a Thommo-esque quality as he struggled to explain away a couple of 'not quites' and 'what if' results in his first five games in charge.

No excuses needed this time, though, with Farina's Aussies looking very impressive indeed.

Good for football.

grblake@primus.com.au



Canberra Cosmos' mighty defender Danny Burt.

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# 'Too Gung-ho son!'

## Says judge to PFA boss Brendan Schwab

By Aidan Ormond

The ongoing saga of the PFA/Northern Spirit dispute took another turn last Friday morning when a Federal Court in Melbourne threw out the case because the correct grievance procedures had not been adhered to.

The judge also slammed PFA chief executive Brendan Schwab for going public and using the media to highlight the issue.

Outside the court last Friday a subdued Brendan Schwab put on a brave face. "The matter has been adjourned until next Thursday (in Sydney). The judge felt that the dispute resolution procedures should be exhausted first before the matter goes to the court.

"We don't like taking a football club to court. We took them to court because we felt the dispute resolution procedures were not administered efficiently by Soccer Australia."

"I am pleased that the Federal Court today upheld the integrity of the grievance procedure under the Collective Bargaining Agreement," Northern Spirit Chairman Remo Nogarotto said.

"It has always been the view of this club throughout this matter that court action should be an absolute last resort to

solve the issue. It is sad that the matter got to the stage where it went to the Federal Court.

"The Northern Spirit Football Club is willing and able to enter into negotiations with the PFA to resolve this matter at the mediation stage."

Soccer Australia's general manager, Stefan Kamasz, felt vindicated by this court ruling and the judge's view of the way the matter was dealt with by the Schwab on behalf of the PFA.

"I am happy because all along that was the route (grievance procedures) they should have taken."

Soccer Australia lawyer George Paschalis added that the judge was critical of the way the dispute was handled by the PFA.

"Basically the judge was upset with the PFA. He was not happy that they signed the Collective Bargaining Agreement and did not go through the correct processes to solve these disputes, as set out in the document.

"For me there have been other instances when the PFA and clubs have had disagreements and Brendan (Schwab) has not been jumping up and down about those."

"To me it's ridiculous ... it's being looked at ideologically. Spirit were more

upset that they had signed such a high-profile player like Nicola Berti and the PFA was trying to torpedo it, more than anything else."

Three days prior to the court appearance the PFA hired a high-profile public relations company, Sirius, to help them publicize their court proceedings, holding a press conference at the SCG.

Last Sunday morning talks were held at Soccer Australia's offices between Northern Spirit (represented by Manny Zammit and the club's lawyer) and the PFA's Brendan Schwab in an effort to resolve the issue.

The talks ran for most of the day with an agreement being reached late in the day.

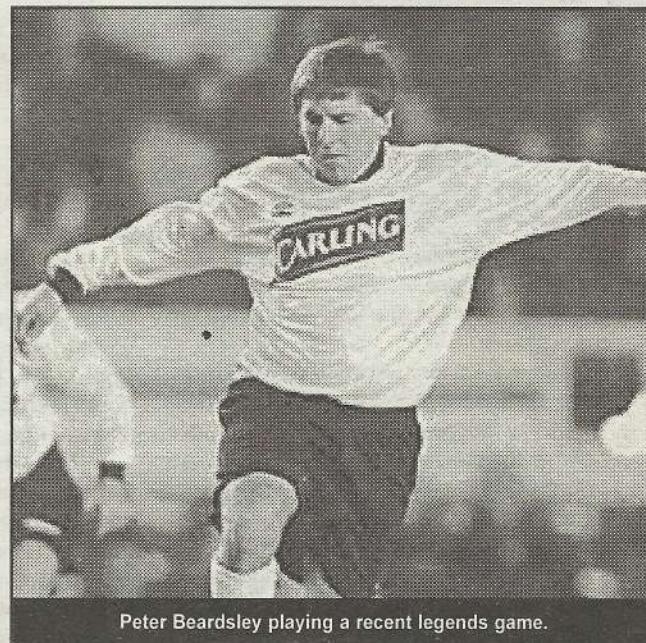
Tony Perinich is now back with the club, signing a three-year deal, while Robbie Enes put his plans on hold while his wife was in hospital having a baby (and congratulations to the Enes while we're at it!)

It's admirable that the PFA was so quick to defend the rights of the players in question - and no-one denies the right to be paid or of freedom of association - but one can't help but think that the

PFA was a little 'quick on the draw' in initiating court proceedings without fully exhausting the grievance procedures (as set out in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.)

If they had adhered to the grievance procedures this issue would have been kept out of the spotlight and soccer writers could write about .... Soccer!

The winners were the lawyers; the game wasted yet more money. Sound familiar Aussie Soccer fans?



Peter Beardsley playing a recent legends game.

# Melbourne Knights

vs

## South Melbourne Knights Stadium

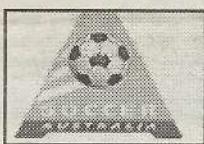
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See the LEGENDARY

# PETE BEARDSLEY

IN THE FIRST OF HIS TWO GAMES





**HUNGARY** 0  
**AUSTRALIA** 3  
 (Stephen Laybutt 12', Josip Skoko 72',  
 Craig Moore 91+)

**I**t finally happened. Harry Kewell proved that he wasn't just a figment of Australian soccer's imagination when he took the field for the national team against Hungary last week. And the Socceroos produced Frank Farina's first win as coach in a comprehensive 3-0 victory.

After sustained pressure in the opening stanza of the game Stephen Laybutt put the Australians in the lead in the 12th minute. After a corner from the right Craig Moore out-jumped the home defence but his header went straight up in the air and dropped to Laybutt behind him, who had time to volley a superb right foot shot inside the near post.

The Hungarians caused the occasional problem from their attacking left but they came closest to scoring an equaliser in the 34th minute when the Hungary centre-forward beat Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich but the ball cannoned off the crossbar.

The Aussies were also very lucky when a corner from the left was misjudged by Moore and instead of getting his head to the ball he got a hand to it, yet the referee didn't see the incident and the visitors escaped punishment.

The Socceroos made it 2-0 in the 72nd minute. Mark Viduka holding the ball up delivered a cross which rebounded off the home defence with Josip Skoko first to the ball. The little midfielder coolly slotted the ball into the back of the net.

The third goal came in extra time

when Moore was slow in getting back from an Australian corner and found himself in space as the ball was returned into the Hungary box. He was first to react and lunged his foot after the ball as it flew over his head and managed to divert the ball into the corner of the net.

"The boys did exceptionally well out there today, and it was an extremely solid performance all round," said Farina after the match.

"All in all you couldn't pick out one player, it was a solid performance by the team on the night, right from the back four of Vidmar, Laybutt, Moore and Muscat, through Okon marshalling the midfield and up to Viduka and Kewell up front.

"I think that the score-line was quite deserved, I'm pleased that we've been able to continue on with the good form that we had in Chile, and I'd have to be kidding if I didn't feel a little bit of relief with my first win.

"I was also really pleased with the way the replacements fitted so well into the game plan.

"Paul Agostino came on at half-time after Harry had taken a couple of knocks to his achilles, and his partnership with Viduka worked well up front, and I was also really happy with the contribution from Craig Foster and Stan Lazaridis," he added.

The Hungarian coach, Bicskei Bertalan, was suitably impressed with the performance of the Aussies. He no longer doubts South Melbourne's Hungarian goalkeeper Milan Udvaracz, who sent back glowing dispatches on the Aussies after the Socceroos' 2-2 draw with Brazil last November.

"What he said about Australia we didn't believe at first," Bertalan said.

"I still don't think they're as good as Brazil, but they showed 2-2 was a realistic result.

"Australia is a very good, European-standard team."

#### Socceroos Line-Up:

Mark Bosnich (gk); Tony Vidmar, Stephen Laybutt, Craig Moore, Kevin Muscat, Danny Tiatto (Stan Lazaridis 77'), Paul Okon, Josip Skoko, Steve Corica (Craig Foster 64'), Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell (Paul Agostino 46')

**I**recall last time the Socceroos played Hungary, in 1997 under Terry Venables' coaching, I said to someone, 'this is it, we're gonna make it. I can feel it' writes Aidan Ormond.

We won that game 3-1 - in a quite convincing manner - just as we did last week in Frank Farina's first win as national coach.

So it is with this in mind that I am reluctant, like I am sure many are, to get overly excited about our 3-0 victory.

Friendlies mean nothing. They are all just building blocks to the ultimate creation; our first World Cup qualification since 1974.

As some of our heroes of that epic campaign 26 years ago said to this paper some time ago, they take no pleasure in being known as the only Socceroos ever to have made it.

What I am willing to say is that the 'mongrel spirit' amongst our national team seems to be back. Coach Frank Farina and assistant Graham Arnold deserve credit here.

These two know full well that when it most matters, we need two things. Team spirit and a battle hardened unit. The for-

**FOR FARINA**



Danny Boy: Danny Tiatto epitomises the new Socceroo spirit.

mer looks to be coming together nicely (the entire squad went out after the game, returning in the early hours.)

The battle hardened aspect will come from tough games in the lead-up to those final two games (should we qualify in Oceania over, presumably, New Zealand.)

Of course, as Terry Venables found, meaningless friendlies don't count for much in the white hot atmosphere of a World Cup qualifier. But, if we get enough games in the two months prior, this should make up for not having to play in an Asian group to qualify.

The Hungary game was encouraging but it don't mean a thing. Sadly, the reality is 180 minutes played late next year is when it counts.

\* I still think we'll qualify this time, but what the hell would I know!

# STALLIONS X2



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# Dean Fak

## 'We can do a Newcastle'

By Greg Blake

**W**hile a significant number of arguably 'good' judges believe Gippsland Falcons should be one of the first clubs executed when the league is eventually reduced from 16 to 12 teams, club insiders are looking north for inspiration.

As the stunning Newcastle Breakers sample the rarified air of top two for the first time and Wollongong City's goalscoring machine heads for the finals for the second time in three seasons, Gippsland is hoping that the dice will eventually roll in a similar fashion for them.

After labouring through several seasons of struggling mediocrity - and missing an entire campaign entirely in the mid-90's as debts and administrative problems plagued the club - the Breakers are now one of the league's hottest tickets.

No-one would consider pushing the Novacastrians back up to the chopping block now, thus proving just how quickly fortunes can fluctuate.

Just as Gippsland - then known as Morwell Falcons - were considered one of the regional 'untouchables' in 1994/95, as the Latrobe Valley club raced into the finals in just their third NSL campaign and were very much a focus of interest for the parochial local community.

According to first-season Falcons favorite, Dean Fak, there is no reason to believe the Gippsland club cannot 'do a Newcastle'.

"I mean, look at Newcastle, they've done so well," says Fak, who joined the

Falcons early in the 1999/2000 campaign.

"They did reasonably well and finished eighth last year, but this year they've really clicked, haven't they."

"They seem to have developed such a good team spirit and although the wheels have fallen off a bit for us recently, there is a real bond developing between the blokes down here too."

"I think you really can relate our situation to Newcastle's and that Gippsland has to be given a real chance to survive."

Fak's move to the Latrobe Valley came as a pleasant surprise after his prestigious career in senior Victorian footy would be rewarded with just brief flirtations with the NSL, at South Melbourne and ill-fated Collingwood.

"I really wasn't expecting to play NSL (again)," he explained.

"(Coach) Jeff Hopkins just rang me out of the blue, the club offered me a trial and I was certainly keen."

"It's good playing football down there, but I must admit that the travel is taking its toll now."

"It's a bastard of a drive - something like two or more hours - so I try to stay at Clayton's (Bell) place near the ground when I can."

"It's probably one of the main reasons I might consider going elsewhere, but I think most of the boys would like to stay with the club."

"We've got a great coach (Jeff Hopkins) and it is important now to try and finish this season off well to maintain the enthusiasm to go back to Gippsland next year and put in a big pre-season."

Fak says a lack of depth and the inability of clubs like Gippsland to hang on to blossoming champions will always cost them.

John Hutchinson is just one of a number of new generation young Falcons earning an NSL profile, thus increasing the chances of him being lured away from the Latrobe Valley, just as many other prospective talents have been.

"I suppose there's always a good chance of that happening," says Fak of the likelihood of the 20-year old midfielder getting an offer to move.

"He's a good bloke; young and skilful and good with both feet."

"I think (losing blossoming talents) it probably is (the main problem)."

"That is the problem isn't it, we just can't compete with the big clubs," he says.

For his part, Hutchinson would always chose to stay in his Latrobe Valley home to play footy - if he could.

But to ply his trade as a professional means accepting the most attractive offers that come your way, albeit reluctantly.

"It's a great club and this is my home town," Hutchinson - who says he has not been approached by any other NSL side - declares proudly.

"It's just that on the financial side they can't really compete."

"But otherwise it's a great club and I think we all believe the Falcons have a future in the national competition."



Gippsland Falcons' Dean Fak. "They are really good, well-intentioned people at the club."

"On the park it's great; we're all mates on and off the field and we are just sort of moulding together."

• "Yeah, give us one of two years together and there is no reason why we couldn't improve like Newcastle has."

Fak believes the Falcons deserve the opportunity to turn the tide.

"There are really good, well-intentioned people at the club and they deserve success," he said.

"They're really making an effort and it shows in everything they do."

\*Gippsland Soccer League news next page.

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# AUSSIES on the world stage

A round-up of how our Aussies players fared abroad this last week ...

## KEWELL HEADED FOR SERIE A?

The big clash of Aussies Abroad this week was the meeting between Middlesbrough and Leeds United in the English Premier League. Harry Kewell, who doesn't have any problems recovering from injuries when a Leeds game is on the menu, played the full game while Mark Schwarzer did the same for Middlesbrough.

After he was injured and replaced at half time in Australia's 3-0 win over Hungary in mid-week there was concern that he would be in doubt for the game, but obviously the injury wasn't as serious as first thought.

Both players were heavily involved in the action with Schwarzer denying Kewell on a couple of occasions whilst Kewell passed up a good opportunity in the 58th minutes when his control deserted him when through on goal (his flick at Schwarzer earned him a yellow card.)

Meanwhile, Kewell's name has emerged in speculation about possible moves for next season with Italian giants AC Milan and Inter Milan supposedly competing in a £20million battle to sign Leeds the talented western Sydney lad.

Both clubs have targeted the 22-year-old Australian as their top priority this northern summer and hope to make Leeds an offer they will find impossible to refuse.

Both clubs have made discreet inquiries to several Premiership sources about Kewell, who has blossomed into one of the top young forwards in the Premiership.

Leeds will fight hard to keep the player who recently signed a long-term contract at Elland Road but who has indicated

that he would like to play in Italy at some stage in his career.

Still in the Leeds den, another 'Aussie' seems set to follow in Kewell's shoes in the next year or two.

Jamie McMaster, a 17-year-old Sydney-born Australian, who has decided to play for England rather than Australia, was drafted into a Leeds squad stricken by injury and suspension.

The blond midfielder travelled with the Premier squad for the first time and said: "When you see what Harry Kewell has achieved it's an inspiration to all young Aussie footballers.

"My ambition from the start has been to follow his example by working my way through the ranks at Leeds. It came as a big surprise when the manager David O'Leary named me in the squad for Middlesbrough, even though we have a lot of injuries and suspensions.

"It's encouraging when you look at how many young players have come through at Leeds, and I want to be among them. Harry has given me lots of useful advice and if I'm involved against Middlesbrough I won't be nervous. I'll enjoy it."

O'Leary said: "We're down to our bare bones, that's why we've drafted Jamie in. The squad systems at Manchester United and Arsenal can cope with situations like this. We're moving in the right direction but it will take a couple of years to get the squad we really want."

McMaster will have to wait for a while longer as he didn't get the opportunity to sit on the bench at Middlesbrough.

In other English Premier League news, Richard Johnson was still out with

injury as his doomed Watford team was beaten 2-1 away to Chelsea. The same problem caused John Aloisi to watch from the sidelines as he still has a few weeks of recuperation before he can make a return from injury.

Mark Bosnich had a reasonable game, although he might have done more to prevent the second goal in United's 2-2 away draw at Wimbledon.

In the Nationwide Division One mid-week game Mike Panopoulos was replaced in the 75th minute and received a booking as Bolton thrashed Panopoulos' visiting Portsmouth team.

Jason Van Blerk reclaimed his spot to play a full game for West Brom after his return from Chile but saw his team go down 2-1 away to Blackburn for whom John Filan is still on the injured list.

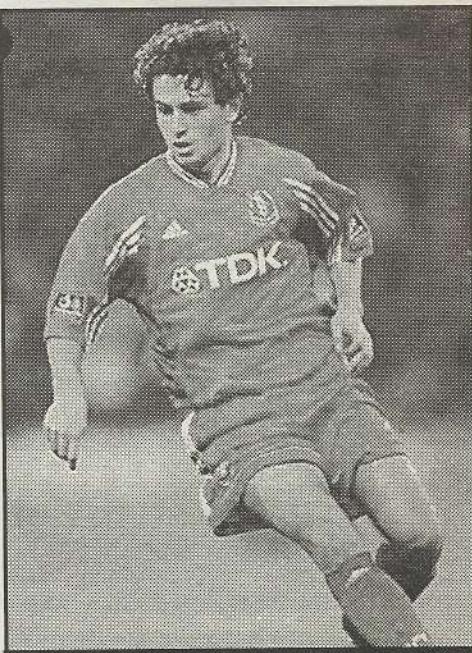
Sheffield United, with Aussie Shaun Murphy playing a full game, suffered one of its rare losses in recent times as leaders Charlton won their tenth game in a row.

Nick Rizzo finally started a game for Crystal Palace in their 1-0 loss away to Grimsby but was replaced in the 63rd minute. Goalkeeper Steve Mautone was left on the bench for the duration of the game but Craig Foster was left out of the squad after his trip to Hungary midweek. As was Danny Tiatto from the Manchester City team that was held to a 1-1 draw with Walsall.

Speaking to Inside Soccer after the game, Nick Rizzo said the Grimsby match was a reflection of the league. "It was a extremely physical. It was more like a battle than a football match," he said.

Jason Kearton was in the Crewe Alexander's goal as they had a 0-1 away win over bottom placed Swindon for whom fellow Aussie 'keeper Frank Talia remained on the bench.

In Wolverhampton's 3-0 home win



Nick Rizzo: "It was more like a battle than a football match."

over Nottingham Forest one Aussie replaced another as Steve Corica came on for Kevin Muscat in the 81st minute.

In the Nationwide Division Two Millwall got back on the winning trail with a 2-0 win over Cambridge United with Lucas Neill and Tim Cahill both playing full games.

Aussie Danny Allsop has taken a drop in divisions by going on loan to Wrexham and he had a dream debut when they won 1-4 away to Oxford. Allsop scored two goals as his team strives to avoid relegation to Division Three.

In the Dutch league new father Zeljko Kalac was in goals for the full game as his team Roda JC was beaten 1-2 at home to PSV, for whom the next Dutch superstar Ruud van Nistelrooy scored the first goal.

Great news for another goalkeeping export from Australia when Frank Juric made his debut for Bayer Leverkusen as they beat Hertha Berlin 3-1 at home.

### MELBOURNE SPORTS BOOKS

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## VIDUKA HEADED FOR AC MILAN?

Contrary to reports emanating from Europe last week Celtic have not employed one of Italy's top agents to find Viduka a Serie A club. Instead, Vincenzo Morabito, revealed his interest was in buying the player - not selling him.

"I have not been given a mandate by Celtic to sell Mark Viduka," said Morabito. "But I have been given a mandate by two clubs to try and buy Viduka."

He refused to elaborate further but Euro media reports say that Milan, and another Spanish club - believed to be Valencia - are the two interested parties.

No formal contact has yet been made with Celtic but that will happen soon.

AC Milan have manoeuvred themselves into pole position for the signature of Mark Viduka at the end of this season.

Sources say that the Serie A champions have instructed an agent to open negotiations with Celtic within the next week aimed at securing the transfer of the Australian international striker.

Viduka will leave Parkhead in the summer so long as a substantial enough offer is received - with bidding likely to

start at £6million.

That price will escalate to around the £8m mark, however, though the status of the buying club is of most importance to the player.

The 24-year-old's prolific form has caused ripples throughout Europe and his goal tally of 22 in 27 matches so far has been enough to tempt one of the world's biggest clubs to place him at the head of their summer shopping list.

It is understood the striker has an agreement with the Celtic management that he will be sold in the close season as long as the club realise their valuation of him.

Given his obvious talent, the price is sure to double Celtic's initial investment and Viduka is certain to have an array of suitors to choose from.

With Oliver Bierhoff about to turn 32, however, Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni will off-load the German while he can still command a sizeable fee and Viduka has been earmarked as a ready-made replacement.

It's all a long way from Melbourne Knights.

# Sign up to reform, clubs told

By Aidan Ormond

A moratorium of 12 months for reform to the NSL looks more likely now after Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella announced that if the NSL clubs sign off on a document of reform principle there will be a moratorium on those changes for 12 months.

"We are waiting for the clubs to sign off on an agreement to reform the league. In short it says that they understand the board wants to reform the league, including a second division, but that they need more time," said Scarsella.

"We want to avoid legal battles and negative publicity, but we want the badly needed reform. So we would like a balance of both. It's a cooperative approach."

It is unclear whether this document would be a legal safeguard for Soccer

Australia should a club (s) wish to take legal action if they are dumped from the league.

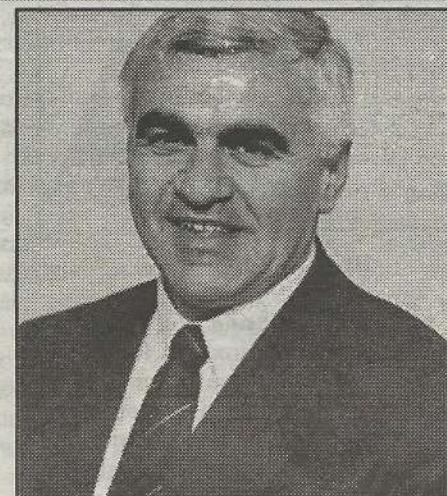
"If we get to the situation where the majority of clubs are agreeing to his I'll be delighted. I want reform but what I don't want is expensive legal battles."

"This document will dramatically reduce the possibility of legal challenges. The critical point from our point of view is that we have given the clubs more time."

NSL executive spokesperson Tony Labbozzetta felt confident that this document is a step forward in the whole reform process.

"There is a need for the clubs to play a role in all of this reform. Inevitably it will give the clubs a little more time. The document ought to be considered. I think that it's a good idea that's in the spirit of change. Hopefully now we can find an agreeable formula," he said.

The clubs have until mid-March to



sign this document. Then it is expected that Soccer Australia will announce the 12 month moratorium.

Inside Soccer will speak to some of the clubs next week to get their view of how this issue is proceeding.



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# Falcons seek govt funding

By Aidan Ormond

A feasibility study of the Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Club project is expected soon so the club can apply for the next round of government funding.

"We need a tangible plan to take to the state government," said Falcons' CEO Peter Quirk to local media.

The club is still in negotiations with local sporting organisations regarding sharing the club's facilities at Mobil Park in a 'super-complex' plan.

"It makes sense to coordinate the facilities," added Quirk.

Golf and basketball are just two sports that may share the Falcons' facilities.

Meanwhile Quirk is determined as ever to keep Falcons a national league side.

"We're in the national league and that's where we are staying," he said.



For local fans the Gippsland Soccer League commences this weekend.

Division one will comprise 12 teams, while the second division will have seven.

Champions Warragul Utd have appointed Jorge Nilo (any relation to Falcons' Juan Nilo?) as coach while Traralgon City will have former Falcon Tom Leckey as coach for his second term.

Churchill Rams have Simon Tanti in charge while the young side at Newborough/Yallourn has Daniel Wells at the helm.

**Mori's goal tally: 136**  
**All-time record: 137**  
**'One to go to equal the record!'**

	(Overall)						(Home)						(Away)					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	23	13	5	5	46	25	44	21	6	4	1	29	13	7	1	4	17	12
Newcastle Breakers	23	12	6	5	34	27	42	7	7	4	1	24	15	5	2	4	10	12
Wollongong Wolves	23	11	7	5	46	34	40	12	8	1	3	24	16	3	6	2	22	18
Perth Glory	22	11	7	4	41	29	40	12	7	3	2	27	18	4	4	2	14	11
Marconi Stallions	22	11	5	6	32	26	38	6	6	1	3	14	11	5	4	3	18	15
Carlton	22	9	6	7	36	28	33	8	5	4	3	18	12	4	2	4	18	16
Brisbane Strikers	23	9	6	8	32	27	33	5	5	4	2	21	10	4	2	6	11	17
Football Kingz	21	8	5	8	36	36	29	0	3	3	3	14	16	5	2	5	22	20
South Melbourne	22	8	5	9	33	36	29	-3	6	2	3	22	12	2	3	6	11	24
Parramatta Power	21	8	4	9	36	33	28	3	5	4	3	21	15	3	0	6	15	18
Adelaide Force	23	7	7	9	29	27	28	2	5	3	3	20	13	2	4	6	9	14
Northern Spirit	23	8	3	12	27	38	27	-11	5	2	4	14	15	3	1	8	13	23
Melbourne Knights	23	7	6	10	27	39	27	-12	5	2	4	13	10	2	4	6	14	29
Gippsland Falcons	23	6	6	11	15	28	24	-13	3	2	6	8	12	3	4	5	7	16
Canberra Cosmos	23	5	6	12	29	44	21	-15	3	3	5	13	13	2	3	7	16	31
Sydney United	23	3	4	16	14	36	13	-22	3	2	8	11	19	0	2	8	3	17

# Point apiece not what Power and Strikers needed

## PARRAMATTA POWER 1

Angelucci 32

## BRISBANE STRIKERS 1

Battistin 57

Friday night at Parramatta Stadium. Crowd: 2,383 (official)



### MATCH STATS:



**PARRAMATTA POWER:** M Gibson, R Plesa (C), D Barrett, M Byrnes, J Vrkic, S Berry, J Gibson (J Griffiths 79), P Bennett, J Burns, M Sterjovski, J Angelucci (D Townsend 88),



**BRISBANE STRIKERS:** C Bolton, M Bell, B Ditton (S Stefanutto 75), G Gwynne, D Pilic, S McLaren (C), P Dwyer, W Srhoj, P Grierson, N Meredith (W Baldwin 82), M Battistin

### Yellows:

**Parramatta:** John Gibson 30, Jon Angelucci 88.

**Brisbane:** Nick Meredith 52, Mark Battistin 90.

### Best Players:

3. JACOB BURNS  
2. Glenn Gwynne  
1. Wayne Srhoj

Referee: Mark Shield



Power's Jacob Burns: his raids down the wings and crossing was a feature for Power.

By Paul Goodwin

In perfect conditions for summer soccer two sides anxious for three points had to settle for only two between them at a near-deserted Parramatta Stadium on Friday night.

Parramatta Power and Brisbane Strikers had both come off disappointing losses away from home and needed a win to regain some confidence and set their sights anew on a top six placing at the end of the season.

Neither managed that, but while Parramatta played reasonably well, it was certainly a much better performance by the visitors than in their previous match, also in Sydney, seven days earlier at Northern Spirit.

Boosted by the return in goal of Clint Bolton and key defenders Glenn Gwynne and Peter Dwyer the Strikers put together a steady first half before coming out in the second with more meaningful intent.

They needed to do that as they had fallen behind to a headed goal from Jon Angelucci just over half an hour into the match.

The home side should have done better in front of goal in the early stages of the game and already had chances to lead, well before they hit the front.

Poor finishing, including efforts directed straight at Clint Bolton, when the keeper was well exposed, let Power down badly and it was not one of Mile Sterjovski's better games inside the penalty area.

Angelucci, by contrast, did play well and deserved his goal, but Parramatta's best on the night was Olyroo Jacob Burns who worked hard and created plenty.

Burns should have scored himself early on, but did provide the excellent cross from which Angelucci notched the only goal for the home side.

Brisbane's defence was well held together and operated in blanket fashion to nullify any predictable moves by Parramatta. The only threats came from runs down the flanks and crosses in behind the defence and that was how the first goal of the game arrived.

Burns showed exceptional pace to outgun his marker down the right, after being put away by Joe Vrkic and sent over a first time ball to the far post where Angelucci directed his header perfectly.

into the top right corner of the net.

The two chances Burns had were unfortunate for him as he missed both by a very narrow margin.

In the 16th minute he raced through to meet a high cross from David Barrett from the right and could not get in a touch before Bolton raced out to claim the ball, as it bounced most awkwardly in front of him, tantalisingly close to goal.

In the 45th Sterjovski got away down the left and did very well to send over a low cross which Burns dived for at full stretch at the far post, but missed by enough to swear by.

Had either of those efforts gone in it would have been a very rueful Brisbane at the break.

As it was they still had plenty to play for and they emerged from the tunnel as if they certainly realised that.

Brisbane's few first half chances were well spaced.

David Pilic seized on a partially cleared ball following a 3rd minute Nicky Meredith corner, but lifted the ball over the bar when well placed to score.

Then, 20 minutes in, Peter Grierson blasted another one over the top from a free kick right in front.

Bolton was by far the busier of the two keepers with shots from John Gibson in the 7th and Sterjovski, after playing an exchange of passes with Angelucci, in the 11th both being hit straight at the Brisbane keeper.

Gibson also did well to dispossess a defender in the 34th and drive a firm shot at the exposed Bolton, who parried the ball and saw his defence scramble it clear.

Bolton also had to beat away a fiercely struck free kick from Power captain Richard Plesa in the 18th when the ball found its way past the wall.

With so much Parramatta activity Brisbane had much to dwell on at half time, but their coach John Kosmina would not take any credit for their renewed focus after the interval.

"They were complaining to one another and that's a good sign. They knew what was going wrong and went about fixing it".

Brisbane did indeed offer much more in the second period, but still had to survive a couple of early scares, Plesa smashing one straight at the keeper following a poor clearance and Angelucci nodding one wide.

Steve Berry also got onto a ball from the left to lift a shot over the bar and all these threats came in the first five minutes.

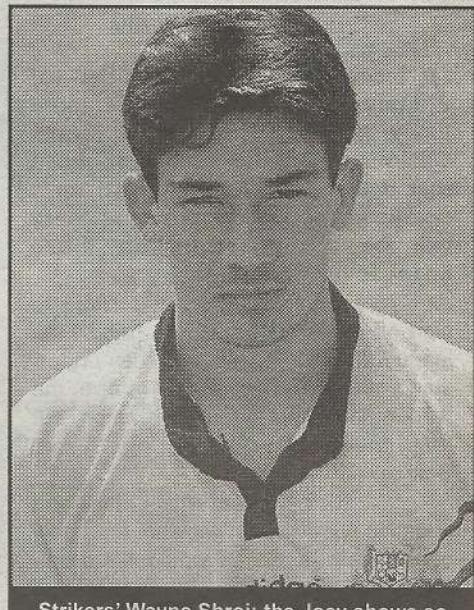
Mark Battistin did well on some approach work in the 53rd for the Strikers, feeding David Pilic out wide on the right and a nice cross was then nodded over the bar from right in front by skipper Stuart McLaren, who was operating up front for the first time this season.

With this glaring miss behind them the Brisbane side continued to press forward and won a free kick out on the left touchline, very deep from the Parramatta goal.

Dead-ball specialist Meredith lofted the ball to the far post where Battistin got in a towering header behind two defenders who rose with him and the ball lodged in the top left corner of Mike Gibson's net.

This 57th minute equaliser was followed almost immediately by another good chance when McLaren ran onto a pass from Pilic on the right, but fired his shot at a relieved Gibson.

Brisbane also went close in the 67th when Peter Dwyer got away down the left



Strikers' Wayne Srhoj: the Joey shows so much maturity for a player so young.

and crossed nicely for Grierson whose far post header sailed over.

The last ten minutes belonged to Parramatta, though they only looked an outside chance of scoring again.

Joel Griffiths and Danny Townsend came off the bench to use their speed and fresh legs, with chances falling to Angelucci and Vrkic as a result, but nothing came of their efforts against a well disciplined defence.

The most attractive move by Parramatta came in the 83rd when Angelucci won the ball well, 30 yards out and fed Townsend who, in turn, found Griffiths on the left byline. Faced with a tight angle Griffiths could only shoot against a defender's legs as the Brisbane man guarded the goal at the near post.

Parramatta coach David Mitchell explained that he had left his most prolific scorer and one of his quickest men, Griffiths, out of the starting eleven as he had suffered a sore shoulder in the Canberra game and wanted to minimise any possible injury.

His replacement, Angelucci, was also better at holding the ball up, which was what he was looking for too, he added.

"We did enough to win, I thought. We had more chances, but we didn't take them when they were presented", he admitted.

Mitchell pointed out the absence of Steve Laybutt, Milan Blagojevic and Walter Ardone, who were all due back for the midweek game at Marconi.

He felt that they would make a big impression when taking their place in the side once more.

Brisbane's John Kosmina was pleased with his side's second half commitment and was still of the view that either side could still make the semi finals, but the dropping of points was beginning to make the prospect harder each week.

"We weren't that clever in the first half, but we improved after the break and could have had a couple of goals." He reflected.

"It was a good battle, I thought," he concluded.

Parramatta faces three away games, all tricky affairs, before hosting Carlton, another tough opponent, in another three weeks.

If they emerge from that trio of travelling matches with some valuable points they could still be in the hunt.

Brisbane, with home games ahead of them, are probably better placed to move back into the six than Power are.



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# Chart-topping Breakers music to the fans' ears

## NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2

Roberts 45, Wieczorek 55.

## GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0

Friday night at Breakers Stadium, Newcastle. Crowd 7,024.



### MATCH STATS



#### NEWCASTLE BREAKERS:

Catlin, Pryce, Roberts (Angieski 85), McManus, Sprod, Dodd, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek, Owens (Trpcevski 77), Harper, Smith (Tancheski 71)



#### GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdjevic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, MacNicol, Vargas (Robertson 64), Bell (Nilo 75), Puca, Hutchinson, Marcina (Savage 56), Mandic

#### Yellows:

Breakers: Wieczorek 91  
Falcons: Durakovic 36, Savage 84

#### BEST PLAYER

#### 3 ANDY ROBERTS (BREAKERS)

2 Greg Owens (Breakers)  
1 Dean Fak (Falcons)

Referee: Con Diomis



A great game at the back by 'Mr Reliable' Manny Gotis of the Falcons.

By Michael Kmet

Newcastle Breakers stretched their winning streak to a record equalling four games with a polished display against a lacklustre Gippsland Falcons. The two-nil score line did not indicate the extent to which the Breakers dominated the match as Newcastle squandered chances to improve their goal difference.

This is the second time Newcastle has stringed four wins together this year as the large crowd celebrated the first time the Breakers have topped the table so late in the season.

This is an outstanding achievement for a team of relative no-names and a coach in only his second year at the helm of a NSL club.

Having said that Breakers coach Lee Sterrey, as he has been all year, is not get-

ting carried away with the lofty heights his team is now sailing. "If we were top of the table in round 34 I'll be very happy. At the end of the day there is eleven games to go. Look at Brisbane. They were top of the table for nine or ten games and all of a sudden they are out of the six. You have two losses on the trot and teams will catch up.

"The only saving grace is that teams are beating each other... sometimes when you get one loss the team's chins and heads get down and you're on a losing streak.

"At the end of the day we have talked about 53 points to be in the top six - that was our goal and if we have those points at the end we'll be happy."

The start of the game saw a minute silence for the passing away of legend Sir Stanley Matthews.

The first thirty minutes began at a very slow pace. Newcastle's Johnny Buonavoglia and Gippsland's Andy Vargas created half chances in this stanza, but the match was looming as a dreary affair.

The Breakers were the first team to awake from the slumber from which the Falcons didn't emerge. At the 33rd minute mark the pony tailed one - Andy Roberts sent a through ball to Brad Wieczorek just past the halfway line. Wieczorek made a bee-line towards goal but shot an excellent opportunity wide.

Two minutes later it was Roberts on the receiving end of a magical flick from Buonavoglia. The flick opened up the Falcons' defence but Roberts should have done better from his effort just outside the six-yard box.

Newcastle's joy did come on the stroke of halftime. Andy Harper found an acre of space on the left. He struck a long cross to Roberts on the far post, whose late run deceived the Gippsland defence. Roberts' timing was perfect as he looped a header over keeper Bojo Jevdjevic at the opposite side of the goal.

The Breakers came into the second half with a new found purpose and energy as they looked to shut Gippsland out of the game.

They extended their lead to 2-0 in what many have described as the goal of the year. Buonavoglia flew high to spectacularly pluck an overhead kick from the air and the ball sailed over the Falcons defence to a marauding Wieczorek. Wieczorek drilled his shot low and hard from his natural left foot and the ball crashed into the bottom left hand corner to kill off any Gippsland's hopes.

Three minutes later the Breakers came agonisingly close when Roberts controlled an Andy Harper cross from thirty yards with his chest and half volley in the one motion. Robert's fierce drive hit the post from twenty-five yards.

At this stage it was all Breakers as the Falcons struggled to get out of their own half.

In the 66th minute Andy Harper drove a ball from outside the box, but it was well saved by Jevdjevic. The 77th minute saw Andy Roberts get another chance to score from a header but his shot went straight to Jevdjevic.

In the 82nd minute the Breakers squandered yet another chance when Buonavoglia flicked a Wieczorek cross over the bar from four yards.

The Falcons' only real chance of the game came in the 86th minute when substitute Juan Nilo caught the Breakers' defence napping on their left. His low shot from inside the box went wide.

The Breakers had three opportunities to extend their lead in injury time when Dodd, Buonavoglia, and Wieczorek all had chances.

However, the Breakers coasted to a 2-nil win in the end, much to the delight of the Novocastrian faithful.

Gippsland were well and truly beaten but their defence should be congratulated on the way they fought off the Breakers. Jevdjevic in goals, Fak, Gotis, and Durakovic all had excellent games, but were severely let down by an impotent Gippsland midfield and attack.

A Falcons attack that has only scored fifteen goals this year speaks for itself, and this poor attacking record was evident in this game.

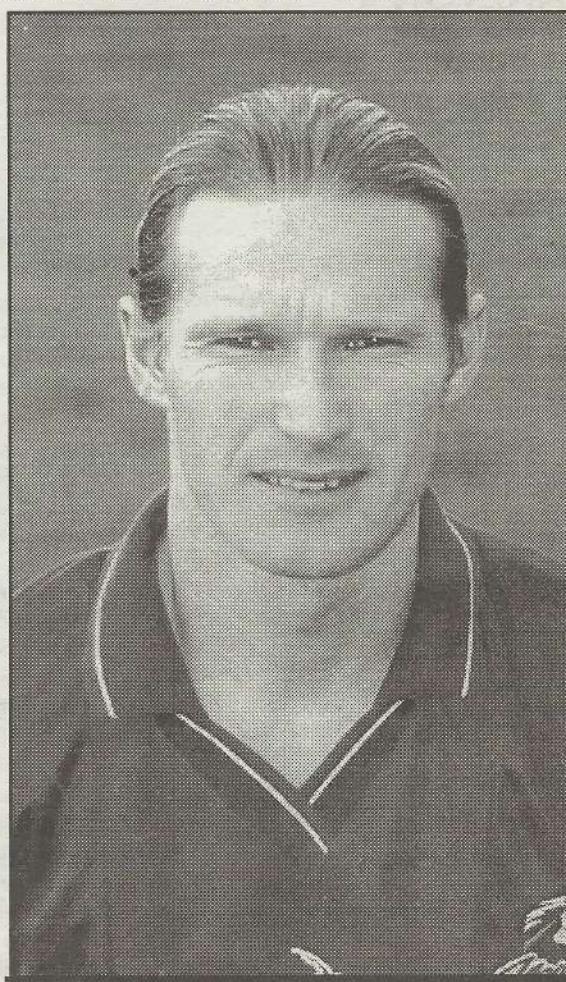
Gippsland coach Jeff Hopkins was despondent after the game.

"I was particularly happy how we started the game but the Breakers came back and I was disappointed how much room we gave them in the midfield."

Man of the match Andy Roberts is still stunned about the Breakers topping the table. "It feels fantastic. I've been here since day one and it always been a goal of mine to get top of the league and we've achieved that."

"Gippsland aren't an easy team to overcome. We have never beaten them here at Breakers Stadium and the boys really wanted the three points."

"It's an added bonus to be top of the league. It could have been more than two nil. However, at the start of the game we



Handy Andy: Andy Roberts' performance earned him a man of the match vote.

would have taken a two nil win. We're just pleased that we got the three points.

"It feels good to get a goal. In saying that I could have had three of four. The team is playing to its strengths at the moment. The guys are well drilled and are solid at the back. We are doing things well."

As Sterrey must be drumming into the boys every week the Breakers still realise they have a long way to go as highlighted by Roberts' comments.

"Lee's pretty good at keeping our heads on the ground. We are not going to get carried away."

"We are going to take it one week at a time and focus on the big picture which is to get in the top six."

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# Sticca's parting comment: "You're gutless"

**CARLTON 1**

Atkinson 42 pen.

**ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 2**

Mori 15, Vidmar 70.

Saturday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd: 1,759.



**MATCH STATS:**



**CARLTON:**  
Anastasiadis, Atkinson, McPherson, Douglas, Horvat, Terminello, Lapsansky, Vasilevski, Slater, Conroy, Thompson.



**ADELAIDE CITY:** Knezevic, Costanzo, Cartwright, Tobin (Zelic 59), Veart, Kim (Brain 46), Kemp, Sabljak, Vidmar, Day (Hassell 66), Mori.

**Yellows**

Carlton: Douglas 69  
Force: Day 26, Kim 41

**Best Players:**

3. COSTANZO (FORCE)  
2. Vidmar (Force)  
1. Knezevic (Force)

**Referee:** Gerry Connolly

By Kevin Christopher

**C**arlton Soccer Club is on the brink of dropping out of the top six after a demoralising home loss against Adelaide City Force at Olympic Park on Saturday night.

And outgoing general manager Lou Sticca let the players know exactly how he felt after the match as he launched into a

lengthy tirade of abuse which was clearly audible throughout the bowels of Olympic Park.

While some may question the value of a non-coach giving his team a spray, the Carlton players have performed so poorly over the past two months that a genuine roasting was required, although few were prepared for the ferocity of Sticca's verbal assault.

With their poor run of results now extended to just two wins in their past ten outings, it is little wonder they continue to draw pitiful crowds, yet astonishingly they continue to cling to a top six position.

On Saturday night's showing they will not be in possession of such a place much longer. Their long-awaited match with South Melbourne tomorrow night (Wednesday) now takes on biblical proportions with both sides simply unable to afford another defeat.

Determined to rebound from last week's hammering at Somers St, Carlton coach Stuart Munro recalled experienced Kiwi duo Sean Douglas and Mark Atkinson to a defence which has looked shaky in recent weeks, but the extended lay-off led to a disastrous misunderstanding after just fifteen minutes.

Matthew Kemp laid off a simple ball to Michael Cartwright who had sufficient time and accuracy to pick out an unmarked Damian Mori, who skilfully directed a glancing header just inside Dean Anastasiadis' right hand post while the Carlton backline were caught in two minds over pushing out. That makes it 136 NSL goals for Mori, and it would be a brave man who would bet against him equalling Rod Brown's record next week at Hindmarsh when the

South Australians host Sydney United.

The goal injected some urgency into the home side with Conroy and Lapsansky both going close but it was Carl Veart and Aurelio Vidmar who were thrilling the neutrals by distributing quality long passes and reminding us of why Adelaide City were so dominant in the 1980s and 1990s.

The home side equalised under controversial circumstances in the 42nd minute when Dong Ki Kim was adjudged to have brought down Stuart Slater. While there was no question of contact, Kim had clearly beaten Slater to the loose ball and the English import had simply fallen over the legs of the Korean.

Referee Gerry Connolly was adamant however, even booking Kim for his protests, and then followed the second bizarre moment of the whole episode.

With captain and regular penalty-taker Andrew Marth sidelined through suspension following his sending-off last night at Somers St, it was obvious that no recognised striker or midfielder was prepared to take on the responsibility of evening the scoreline.

It took Kiwi international Mark Atkinson to come up from sweeper and show the supposed goalscorers how it is done.

The confidence of the Blues forwards is at rock bottom at the moment,

with Mick Conroy still yet to open his account and Alex Moreira and John Markovski unable to hold down a first team place. Munro has given the likes of Joshua Kennedy and Archie Thompson a chance to impress up front but the reality is that without the crucial goals of Andrew Marth, Carlton's season may already be in the gutter.

Defensively they continue to commit schoolboy errors at the rate of two a game and unless the club can reverse the trend then thoughts of play in May can be dismissed.

The Blues pumped an endless supply of long balls into the box but the monotonous result was Knezevic rising high to catch safely each time.

But full credit should go to Adelaide City, who looked the more purposeful side, held possession better, passed the ball better, and used their bench more effectively.

Louis Brain, Ivan Zelic and Brad Hassell all contributed effectively when given the call whilst the game was in the balance. Conversely, by the time Munro turned to his bench his team looked a beaten side.

Adelaide got their deserved winner twenty minutes from time when Blues' acting captain Sean Douglas blatantly held the shirt of Brad Hassell and conceded a free kick in a dangerously central position just outside the eighteen yard box. While all eyes were on Mori, he simply ran over the ball and Aurelio Vidmar rifled a right foot shot into the bottom corner past the outstretched right arm of Anastasiadis.

It was just reward for the Socceroo veteran and it may just prove to be a significant victory for Adelaide with the season about to enter the home straight.

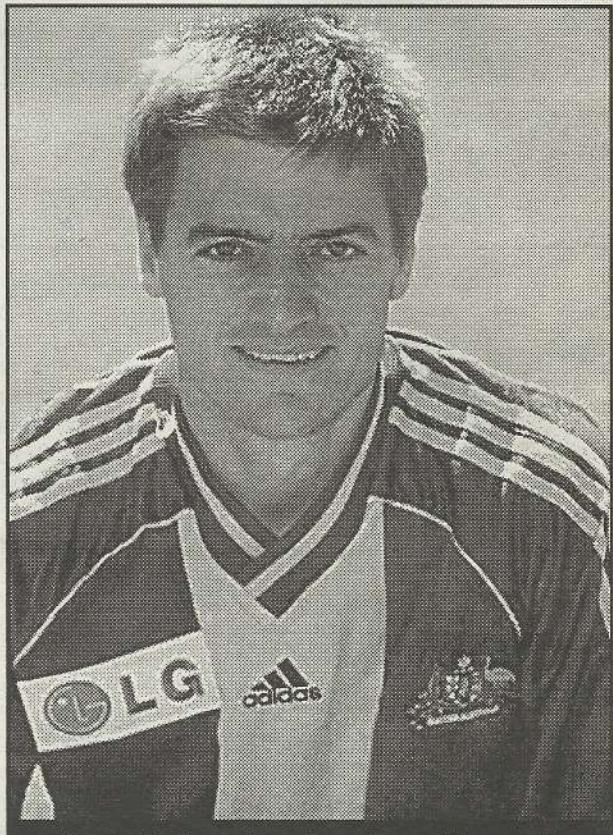
City coach Zoran Matic was reluctant to talk up his side's chances of finals action, preferring the "They are in a much better position than we are in" line. But if his team can continue to pick up points away from home as well as at Hindmarsh then the Force cannot be discounted from finals discussions.

So while other clubs may be in a better position at the moment, the momentum is starting to build amongst the squad. Not that Matic is likely to get too excited, of course.

The master coach was also playing down Damian Mori's imminent NSL goalscoring record. "I don't think anybody cares about the record, it's only the result that is important. Maybe only Damian but nobody else."

Such an attitude seems extraordinary in a sport which struggles for good publicity, but it may provide a clue as to why Adelaide City are in the headlines far less these days.

Unlike Carlton, who are now punchdrunk and wobbling and making



Damian Mori ... only one to go to equal the record.

news for all the wrong reasons, and Munro is under no illusions as to the seriousness of the situation.

"We're all playing for our contracts now, myself included, but yes, definitely these players. I've just told them exactly the same thing.

Referring to the outburst from Lou Sticca, Munro was quick to point out that it was for the players' ears only, but he wasn't critical of Sticca's intentions.

"Certain things have got to be said. I've been shouting at all the players for weeks now, but sometimes they become immune to the coach's voice.

Sometimes it takes somebody else to come in and try and make the players realise what it actually means to this club."

It will be very interesting to see the players reactions when they take the field at Bob Jane Stadium.

## NSL TOP SCORERS:

### PABLO CARDENAS

(Sydney Olympic) 14

### MICHAEL CURCIJA

(South) 14

CON BOUTSIANIS (PG) 13

PAUL FOSTER (BS) 11

ALEX MOREIRA (C) 11

### CROWD COMPARISON:

Cumulative to Round 23

99/00: 952,143

98/99: 918,244

### Fixture changes:

\*Please note that the Marconi Stallions and Perth Glory game in Sydney will be played on Good Friday April 21 kick-off 6pm (in place of the original Easter Saturday)

\* This Wednesday, March 1, there are two games. Marconi v Power at Marconi Stadium, and Carlton v South at Bob Jane. Both kick-off at 7.30pm.

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If I won tattslotto, I'd buy Gippsland Falcons a striker or two!"

Mrs Hutchinson of Gippsland, proving that the Mums of Australia know a thing or two.

"It's like buying Man Utd on a losing run."

New owner of Sydney Kings basketball. Sorry but according to all reports Man Utd is 220 times more expensive than the Sydney Kings .... and slightly more successful.

"Becky found out that Amber's child is really hers. She was changing the nappy and saw that the birthmark belonged to the baby she gave away for adoption, and so she runs away with it."

Glory's Vinko Buljubasic on The Bold and the Beautiful. Apparently he's into it.

"You're gutless. Goodbye."

Lou Sticca says goodbye to the Carlton players.

# Nick T unhappy with 'dreary' fans

## WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3

Young 45, 56, Masi 49.

## FOOTBALL KINGZ 1

Ngata 38.

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd: 3,313.



### MATCH STATS:



**WOLLONGONG WOLVES:** Pogliacomi, Souris, Ceccoli, Stanton, O'Grady (Huxley 45), Cervinski, Reid (Petrovski 71), Young, Chipperfield, Masi (Blake 79), Mennillo



**KINGZ:** Batty, Stergiopoulos, Bunce, Van Steeden, Ngata, Osman, Vichelich, Perry, Jones, Jackson (Moya 75), Suri (Silva 70; Rufer 83).

**Reds:**  
Kingz: Osman 2

**Best Player:**  
3. CHIPPERFIELD (WOLLONGONG)  
2. Stergiopoulos (Kingz)  
1. Stanton (Wollongong)

Referee: Derek Rugg

By Stephen Webb

The Football Kingz, a player short for nearly the whole game, deserved to score the first goal and they played better football in the first half.

Wollongong would have finished the night fittingly shame-faced but for three goals in 11 minutes.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos blamed the local fans for his team's lacklustre first half, but the crowd was stunned into silence by the home team's failure to swarm over the handicapped visitors.

Wolves were missing skipper Matt Horsley (suspended), Kiwi international Neil Harlock (injured) and Antony Surjan (who walked out because he feels he should be more than part of the squad's increasing "depth").

But Kingz lost Levent Osman from the park with little over a minute gone. Osman took pre-match verbal sparring regarding former Kingz player Dino Mennillo one step too far: competing for an even ball with Mennillo in full-flight, Osman came over the ball, showing too many studs for the liking of New Zealand referee Derek Rugg. Rugg raised the red card -- the only card shown during the match.

Wolves, however, couldn't take advantage of the extra player. Their pumping of balls through for forwards Masi, Chipperfield and Young and their running at defenders was countered by the offside flag and Kingz's competitiveness, physical play and passing game (something sadly missing from Wolves' performances in recent weeks).

With an abundance of Wollongong backs on the pitch, George Souris moved to wing back and filled Horsley's racy shoes quite well. Twice in the early minutes he beat defenders while running down the right touchline. In the first instance he cut in and crossed to Young who, typical of his out-of-sorts game,

backheaded to no-one.

In the eighth minute Chipperfield ignored Young free on his right and ran the ball himself, past some defenders, into the Kingz penalty area and took on the keeper. Batty won out but the ball fell for Masi who hurriedly shot over the crossbar.

In the 13th minute Souris forced Stergiopoulos to concede a corner after a long ball from Cervinski and a cross from Mennillo.

Like many Wollongong players, Ceccoli had a game of mixed fortune: one minute he was showing some classy ball skills under pressure in midfield; the next he was caught holding the ball too long.

The same fate often befell lanky debutant Paul O'Grady -- taking too much time to think with the ball at his feet.

One of the few who played with consistent good form was sweeper Robbie Stanton. He was recognised for this after the match -- but also by the fact few balls got through to Pogliacomi.

One which did was a 17th minute cross from Stergiopoulos, after a sustained sequence of Kingz passing.

Other notable first half impressions were made by Perry and Bunce (some hefty contact on Chipperfield). When Chipperfield did get the better of Bunce he was mopped up by Vichelich and Perry.

In the 19th minute another period of Kingz possession, skirting the Wollongong penalty area, was more constructive than anything the home side had produced thus far -- except there was no resulting shot.

Meanwhile, despite the attention of Bunce, Chipperfield got a ball away to Cervinski who shot high from 40 metres.

There was more danger in the 23rd minute when a very loose, high, long backpass from Suri was headed down to the keeper by Vichelich, under pressure from Chipperfield.

In the 27th minute Masi won a high heading duel in midfield, getting the ball to Chipperfield wide on the left. Masi took the return running into the box but showed Batty too much and could only shoot into the keeper's body from close range.

On the half hour Kingz looked to be playing the better football -- sometimes it seemed they had the extra player. In the 33rd minute Stergiopoulos broke the Wolves defensive line (well, he received the ball unmarked in the penalty area, though four defenders were standing by) and shot across goal, wide of the left upright.

A minute later Chipperfield, on the end of a throw from the left, crossed along the Kingz goal line -- but no-one was present to tap it in.

Another close shave came in the 36th minute when Cervinski hit a long ball through which was almost perfect for Ceccoli running into the box.

Kingz's determination was rewarded two minutes later when again Stergiopoulos was found by a wonderful ball into Wollongong's penalty area. Turning on the ball with his back to Souris he was pulled by the defender and Kingz had a penalty -- converted by Ngata who sent Pogliacomi the wrong way.

Wollongong were spurred into

action. A corner from Mennillo had to be punched off the line by Batty, the ball eventually scrambled clear. And a Mennillo free kick from the left corner of Kingz's penalty area was centimetres away from meeting Cervinski's head at the far post.

A cruel deflection from the referee when Kingz were breaking free almost gave Masi a chance in front of goal, but he was robbed by Stergiopoulos.

The local fans' half time disappointment was only alleviated by Wolves' equaliser in time added on. Paul Reid, whose passing had been questionable to that point, delivered a lovely ball to Young bearing down the middle of the pitch with a big goal before him and only the keeper to beat.

The half time substitution of Huxley for O'Grady and the movement of Ceccoli back to left stopper (and whatever words of "encouragement" Theodorakopoulos had for his players) added the spice the home fans were praying (if not baying) for.

Wolves came out firing. Thirty seconds into the second half a low shot from Young on the edge of the box brought Batty quickly to his knees.

Four minutes later Mennillo was brought down on the left touchline. Ceccoli's free kick was collected by Masi in the right side of Kingz's area. The Fijian striker seemed to take two stabs at it but put it away well.

There followed an exchange of shooting attempts. A Kingz free kick was met with a lobbed header easily caught by Pogliacomi. Young shot over the Kingz crossbar. And Suri won the ball 30 metres from goal and shot wide.

In the 56th minute Souris crossed from near the by-line on the right. Hard and low, it rebounded back to him. His second effort was met by Young a metre off the goal line, with Batty unable to get in the way.

Stergiopoulos, brought down by Huxley 35 metres out from goal, hit the free kick high and rising.

In the 65th minute Chipperfield neatly beat Perry but the defender tackled back and conceded a corner. Then Reid skied two shots in close succession.

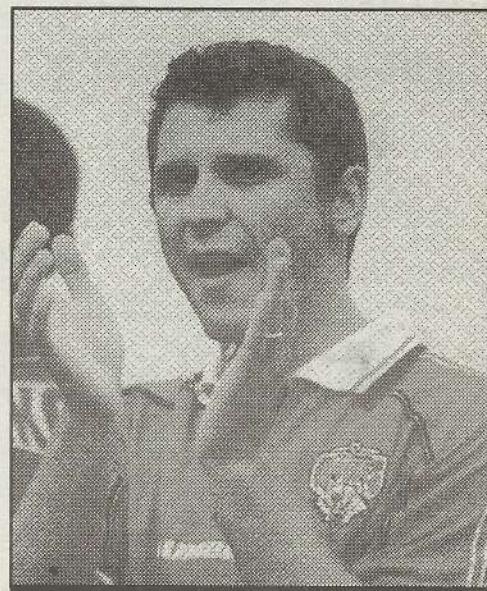
With 20 minutes to go Wollongong were pressured into a series of risky back-passes. A too-soft effort from Cervinski to Pogliacomi was seized by Stergiopoulos who, with a little luck, would have had a chance when the ball flew up off the Wolves keeper.

Young missed a glorious opportunity for his hat-trick in the 75th minute. He overran a perfectly weighted cross from Chipperfield on the left and couldn't regain control in time to take advantage of his position and shoot. Unable to round the defence he pushed the ball right to Petrovski whose shot was gentle and no threat to Batty.

In the closing ten minutes Young shot over the crossbar, Perry drilled one from the corner of the box forcing Pogliacomi to make a low save, and Chipperfield made a scintillating solo run from the right, beating a defender and calling an excellent save from Batty. From Chipperfield's corner Petrovski headed firmly just over the crossbar.

When a free kick on Kingz left flank was pulled back into midfield, Moya hit such a fierce, long-range shot that Pogliacomi shuffled backwards to hold it.

Wolves' last decent fling was another Chipperfield run, this time blocked by Van



Stuart Young ... another two goals.

Steeden.

Theodorakopoulos talked up Wollongong's performance and blamed the local supporters: "I thought there was a genuine lack of enthusiasm from the crowd that spilled over onto the pitch. It was just one of those dreary afternoons."

"Overall I'm looking at the big picture. We held them out ... I think we had something like eight to ten good scoring chances. I'm quite happy."

"We still won the game ... We've taken the three goals and I just think the players have to be a little bit more careful in front of goal. Because if they are going to be that silly it could work against us in a game that's a lot tighter."

Asked how much he missed his captain, Theodorakopoulos said, "I think any team in the national soccer league who doesn't have Matt Horsley in their team misses him, full stop."

He complimented Kingz for battling for 88 minutes against the mobile Wollongong side (though "probably a bit off its game overall"). Kingz, he said, were very aggressive and straight to the tackle. "They won some good challenges."

Kingz assistant coach Shane Rufer said the New Zealand side would just have to live the referee's "complete lack of feeling".

He said he wasn't overly confident when his team scored first. "Wollongong's for sure one of the best teams in the league ... and it was always going to be difficult here. But playing with ten men for 88 minutes is a big task."

"But having said that, I'm very pleased with the whole team's performance ... I thought they battled very well under the circumstances the referee put us in."

Rufer said it was Kingz's first game after eight without suspensions. He blamed the players but also inconsistent refereeing.

Theodorakopoulos said Wollongong were lucky with suspensions but now he had injury worries with Petrovski and Masi, who could miss 6-8 weeks with a torn hamstring.

He said the players had shown their disbelief in Surjan's action in walking out, which he described as substandard. "He could have gone out with his head high in another 13 weeks. And we're a chance for the league, so why not finish on a high note?"

"But we still have a lot of good boys who want to achieve something."

# Emo the wizard casts spell over Spirits

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3**  
Arambasic 15, Emerton 23, Cardozo 57.  
**NORTHERN SPIRIT 1**  
Slater 37.

Sunday night at Belmore Oval, Sydney. Crowd, 7,232.



## MATCH STATS:



**SYDNEY OLYMPIC:**  
Kourtis, Thomas, Zoricich, Baillie, Juric, Arambasic (Jomaa 79), Cardozo, Emerton, Mendez (Zorbas 69), Wilson, Carle (Tome 61).



**NORTHERN SPIRIT:**  
Henderson, Langdon (Moss 71), Casserly, Slater, Berti (T. Cranney 52), Bilokapic, Wearne, A. Griffiths, Cunico, Saad (Catanzaro 35), S. Cranney.

**Yellows:**  
Olympic: Cardozo 40.

**Best Players:**  
3. EMERTON (OLYMPIC)  
2. Cardozo (Olympic)  
1. Carle (Olympic).

**Referee:** Simon Micallef

By Ben Cubby

**S**ydney Olympic surged back to the top of the National Soccer League on Sunday night with a comprehensive 3-1 victory over Northern Spirit at Belmore Oval.

Brett Emerton stood out amongst a host of star performers for the home side, causing coach Branko Culina to remark after the game "that's the best I've ever seen him play."

Praise indeed for a player who has

been tearing the opposition apart since the first round of the season.

With costly import Nicola Berti again failing to fire, Spirit were simply overwhelmed by the pace and flair of the league leaders. Spirit boss Graham Arnold summed it up with the sincere admission:

"Olympic's movement off the ball, the way they play, it's a joy to watch really."

A big, boisterous crowd rolled up for the Sydney derby and were treated to a flurry of action straight from the opening whistle.

Olympic made most of the early running, and in-form Spirit custodian Paul Henderson was called upon in the 2nd minute to hold a sharp header from Ante Juric.

Gabriel Mendez wasted a golden chance moments later, blasting into the side netting when both Arambasic and Cardozo were standing unmarked inside the Spirit six yard box.

The visiting side couldn't seem to string more than two passes together and, every time they lost the ball, Emerton, Mendez, or the quicksilver Nick Carle would make a beeline towards their goal-mouth.

In the 14th minute, Arambasic turned and smashed a volley against the underside of the bar.

The overworked Henderson hastily gathered the bouncing ball, but he could do nothing about Olympic's opening goal a minute later.

A brilliant through-ball from Carle found Arambasic and the striker jinked past Paul Bilokapic before curling a shot into the bottom far corner of the net.

Shortly after the re-start, Bilokapic deflected a low, hard cross from Emerton towards his own net, and it took a desperate dive by Henderson to prevent an own goal.

Spirit had to wait until the 19th minute before mounting a serious raid on the Olympic goal.

The busy Robbie Slater set up Adam Griffiths for a venomous drive that was solidly held by stand-in Olympic 'keeper Jim Kourtis.

Griffiths' good form was one small bright spot for the visiting side.

The youngster covered a lot of ground in the middle of the park, providing a tenacity that was otherwise sadly lacking.

And Berti? He jogged casually around the paddock, clearly not fit yet, and several times threw up his arms in exasperation as the flow of the match passed him by.

In the 23rd minute, Berti lost the ball in midfield and Cardozo played a



Brett Emerton: back to his best this season.

measured pass through to the rampaging Emerton.

The Olyroo captain picked his spot and coolly slotted past Henderson to make it 2-0 to Olympic.

Emerton underlined his value at both ends of the park when he raced back to clear a goalbound Abbas Saad chip off the line on the half-hour mark.

Unfortunately for Saad, this near miss was to be his last contribution to the match. He limped off with a hamstring injury in the 35th minute, to be replaced by Spirit apprentice Simon Catanzaro.

Slater gave the travelling Spirit faithful a ray of hope in the 37th minute, following up to score with a low drive, after Kourtis had parried his initial effort.

Most of the momentum remained with Olympic, however, and Cardozo, Carle and Emerton all had chances to extend the lead before the break.

The introduction of Troy Cranney for the tired Berti early in the second half gave Spirit a more balanced look and for a while it seemed as though they might have been able to conjure up an equaliser.

Cardozo finally put the game beyond them, though, with a sublime strike in the 57th minute.

Emerton won the ball in midfield, beat a couple of players and pushed it out to Cardozo on the left.

The forward controlled with his first touch and then hit a fabulous, curling shot into the top corner of Henderson's net from thirty yards out.

It was Cardozo's 14th goal of the season and probably the best one yet.

Slater rattled the crossbar with a fierce, first-time volley in the 67th minute, but Olympic were rarely threatened after their third goal.

The tireless, weaving runs of Emerton highlighted the final quarter of the match.

The lanky winger seemed unstoppable at times, and whenever he touched

the ball a roar of anticipation echoed around the ground.

Lively substitute Norm Tome profited most from Emerton's creative play, bringing the best out of Henderson on a couple of occasions near the end.

Spirit ultimately did well to hold the score at 3-1. Henderson, Slater and Griffiths in particular showed real resilience and fighting qualities in this match.

For Olympic, the many-pronged forward line gains most of the attention, but this was also a splendid all-round team performance.

Mongrel the unsung heroes were Scott Thomas, Juric and fearless stopper Scott Baillie.

After the final whistle, Spirit's Graham Arnold conceded "we were beaten by a better team."

"The difference between Olympic and us today was their class. Emerton stood up, Pablo stood up."

"I was happy with the three young boys (Griffiths, Catanzaro and Wearne)."

"Nicola is not fit, he admits that he is not fit."

"Our season is more or less nearly over but we'll keep going," he said.

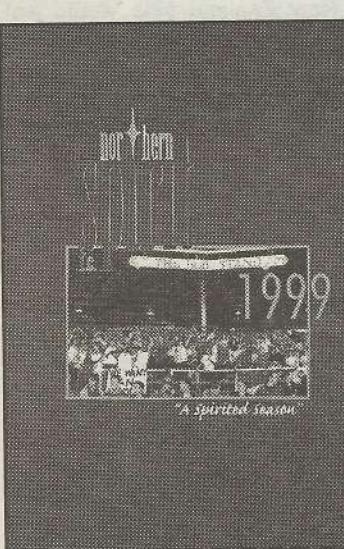
Olympic's Branko Culina could afford to be in a better mood: "We were outstanding today. Emerton was outstanding, his attitude and commitment this year is superb."

"We've still got a little bit of improvement to go. Defensively we were a bit naive."

"Mendez is not yet back to his best after suspension and we've got Peter Tsekenis still to come back - he played in the youth team today."

"I've seen most of the Northern Spirit matches this season and I thought they were good today", Culina said.

"In the end we really had to grind out a result."



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# Perfect Day: Bernd's back and Glory gets full points

**PERTH GLORY 3**  
 Edwards 3, 30 Boutsianis 45  
**CANBERRA COSMOS 2**  
 De Jesus 35 pen, 74 pen

Sunday night at Perth Oval, Perth. Crowd: 13,158.



## MATCH STATS:



**PERTH GLORY:**  
 Petkovic, Miller, Thorpe (Harnwell 41), Valle, Naven, Afkos (Ergic 84), Wehrman, Halpin, Edgar, Edwards, Boutsianis (Aurelio 70).



**CANBERRA COSMOS:** Barlow, Popovic, Burt, Polak, Winnie, Arranz (Milin 75), Hooker (Gonzalez 71), Clark, Roberts, De Jesus, James (Watkins 60).

## Yellows:

**Glory:** Halpin 34, Valle 53, Edgar 60.  
**Cosmos:** Burt 28, Arranz 38, James 58, Popovic 66, Clark 73.

## Best Players:

3. **EDWARDS (GLORY)**  
 2. Halpin (Glory)  
 1. Valle (Glory)

Referee: Matthew Breeze

sacking of coach Bernd Stange, the protest was all in vain because word filtered through before the protest that Stange had been offered a one year deal to continue his job as Glory coach.

The protest march still continued and was taken right up to the entrance to the members area behind the main grandstand.

Glory chairman Nick Tana (who used his 75% voting position to overturn the decision to keep Stange on) did not show up to speak to the fans and instead used a PA system to announce his decision to the entire ground that Stange had indeed been offered a new contract and he would make his decision in the following week.

This somewhat mellowed a crowd hell-bent on seeing Stange re-instated and the backpedaling by Tanner showed that fans could and will make a difference.

Stange's appearance for his usual walk around the pitch during the warm up was something that will stay in his and his fans' memories for many years, the ovation one of the biggest seen at the ground.

A large crowd was at Perth Oval to see the match. Jamie Harnwell and Kasey Wehrman returned to the squad at the expense of Peter Buljan and Robert Trajkovski who were both injured.

Canberra had no such injury problems and their improving form gave them some hope of causing an upset away from home.

Con Boutsianis lined up as a forward on the right hand side with Edwards on the left. With both players left footed Boutsianis must have drawn the short straw.

Wehrman went straight back into the starting eleven with resurgent defenders Dion Valle and Hamilton Thorpe keeping their spots in the side after a top performance against Adelaide the previous week.

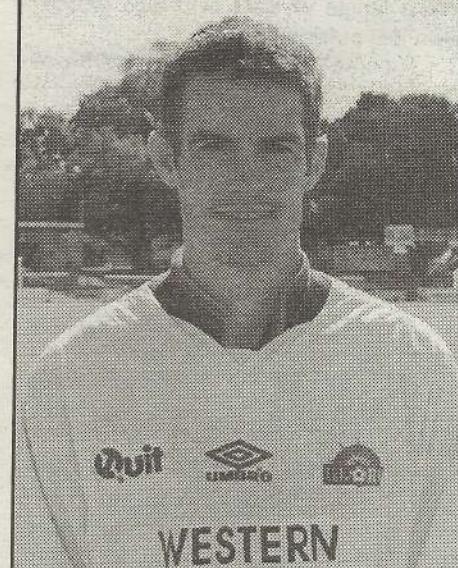
Ivan Ergic and Aurelio were relegated to the bench and Robbie Hooker made his first appearance in Perth as a Canberra player in midfield.

The home side was the first to make inroads when Scott Miller found himself with space after a great cross from Wehrman but the hot was wide and wasteful.

An obvious handball in the Glory box by an opposing player was missed moments later and the decision was the first of many inconsistent ones for referee Matthew Breeze. After only three minutes Glory went ahead.

Troy Halpin finding himself with too much space in the middle and a typically excellent through ball from the Socceroo found Edwards who slotted the ball past the keeper, the ease of the goal not seen at Perth Oval since the 6-1 mauling of Melbourne last November.

The Cosmos' game plan was too one dimensional and easy to thwart. The away side would simply get possession of the ball and pump the ball forward with a high long ball hoping De Jesus would get a lucky knock down. Thorpe and Valle did not lose one header contest in the first 30 minutes and Canberra had to simply put up with the Glory onslaught as best they could.



Alistair Edwards ... two early goals for Glory.

By Dennis Gedling

**P**erth Glory grabbed the three points over a predictable Canberra Cosmos side at Perth Oval despite a very poor second half and inability to hold onto the ball in the last 10 minutes of the match.

A double to Alistair Edwards and header to top scorer Con Boutsianis got the points for the home side, whilst Canberra's two goals came from two penalties, converted by De Jesus, the second penalty a very dubious.

Before the match there was a massive protest outside the ground from Glory supporters extremely unhappy about the

Shortly after the half-hour mark the home side were two up. Once again Halpin and Wehrman showed the long delayed midfield combo is one to fear when a Wehrman pass found Halpin with space.

Halpin passed another through ball to Edwards (who was lucky to be called onside) and he rounded the keeper and easily tapped the ball in for his third goal in two games.

It was all too easy for Perth but three minutes later Canberra pulled a goal back. Another long ball to De Jesus saw him outpace the defence but Miller gave a crunching tackle inside the area and De Jesus calmly put the ball past Petkovic from the resulting penalty.

Shortly before half time Thorpe made way for Harnwell, Thorpe's back injury flaring up and Stange taking no chances.

Glory went 3-1 up deep in first half injury time with a great piece of skill and teamwork. James Afkos dispossessed the opposition in midfield and used his skill to evade three Cosmos players.

Afkos' pass found Wehrman who played a one-two with Halpin and crossed the ball into the area where the ball was headed in by Boutsianis, Glory's top scorer, who was having a quiet game up to that point.

The ineffective Harry James made way for Daniel Watkins on the hour, which was supposed to give Canberra extra zest but once again they went to the long ball tactics.

Aurelio made way for a lacklustre Boutsianis after 70 minutes and shortly after Gabby Gonzalez came on for Hooker

Canberra were soon back in the match from a very dubious penalty. A nice through ball found De Jesus in the area. Petkovic came out to try and grab the ball but in a tangle with the Cosmos player he lost the ball and somehow the referee saw fit to award a penalty against Petkovic.

The decision astounded most including the visitors.

De Jesus' once again put the ball past Petkovic to convert his third penalty at Perth Oval in two matches.

The Cosmos suddenly found reason to push for a point and pushed a tired and emotional Glory to the brink of repeating the effort of its last home game. De Jesus' received a booking for tapping Harnwell's heels (who was doing a great job in place of Thorpe).

Ergic came on for Afkos towards the end of the match but in the end an emotionally exhausted crowd gave a sigh of relief, glad to get the three points and to notch its seventh win in eight home matches.

After the match Stange said that: "All it was today was win, win, win. We got the points and I am happy."

Stange went on another lap of honour with the local TV news crews filming his every move, his thank you to the shed a special moment of a man much loved by Glory supporters.

Glory did enough to take the win over a gallant Canberra but once again it's



Ivo de Jesus ... scorer of two goals.

effort to play a full 90 minutes fell way short. The exciting combination of Halpin and Wehrman was joy to watch and De Jesus' once again proved he is a very deceptive player with a great ability to dodge defenders.

Edwards' ability to score goals consistently adds another plus to the Perth side's championship claims whilst having the likes of Aurelio, Ergic, and Buljan not even able to make the starting eleven is another reason why Glory must consider one of the favorites for the title.

It is now up to Stange to put the last two weeks of a Nick Tana led misery behind him and his team and to push for a top two position.

Many times some wins have been looked at as turning points for Glory this season but this may be turn out to be the major turning point after the events on and off the pitch over the last week. Glory face an away trip to Brisbane in the next round whilst Canberra are home to a struggling Carlton side.

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# Knights revival in full swing



**SYDNEY UNITED 1**  
Bosevski 86.

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2**  
Reda 52, Urlovic 85.

Sunday night at Sydney United Sports Centre. Crowd 2,223.

**MATCH STATS:**



**SYDNEY UNITED:**

Tolios, Saric, Maric, Palapanis (Zec 68), Bozinovski, J Moric (Rakic 55), Savoca, Podeljak, Arrarte, Jermen (Bosevski 22), Usljebcka.



**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:**

John, Kovacevic, Banini, Vargas, Magdic, Rajher (Nastevski 79), Kiratzoglou, Susa, Reda (Vukadin 65), Rados (Urlovic 57), Kelic.

**Yellow:**  
United: Saric 90+  
Knights: Nil

**Reds:**  
Knights: Vargas 61.

**Best Players:**  
3. BOSEVSKI (UNITED)  
2. Kovacevic (Knights)  
1. Usljebcka (United)

**Referee:** Brett Hugo

By John Vrataric

**E**ven having to play with ten men for just on a half hour Melbourne Knights continued their impressive form in 2000 with a hard fought victory over Sydney United to stretch their unbeaten run to eight games.

The Knights were able to overcome the send off of defender Rody Vargas, who was dismissed in the 61st minute for a 'last man' foul.

After starting the year with two thumping losses, a 3-0 away loss to Marconi and an even more humiliating 0-4 home loss to Brisbane Strikers, the Knights have drawn five and won three of

their last eight games.

Even more meritorious is the fact that they have won three of their last four games including a comprehensive 3-0 win over top six aspirants Carlton.

The change of coaches seems to have been of great benefit to the Knights whilst, on the other hand, Sydney United's mid season coaching change has not worked at all.

Since their 1-1 home draw against the Knights in Round 19 United has not won any game, with the period culminating in a fourth loss in as many games against the Melbourne visitors.

Both teams were missing influential midfielders through suspension with Aytak Genc out for two weeks for United and Mark Silic missing for Knights.

United were still without their 'father figure' Velimir Kupresak and the improving youngster Kain Rastall as well as their sweeper Eddy Bosnar who was taking part in the Viareggio Youth tournament in Italy as a guest player for the Marconi Youth team (who lost all three of their group games - see page 19).

The home team was forced to give starting debuts to their sweeper, Greg Saric and right wing-back Steve Bozinovski.

The first half was, to say the least, an uninspiring contest between two teams that seemed bereft of ideas and motivation. The small crowd at the Sydney United Sports Centre was treated to a listless half with very few notable highlights.

United did start off a little more determined than their Melbourne cousins and in the sixth minute a neat move down the right between Bozinovski, Arrarte and Podeljak allowed the latter to produce a testing cross. The ball was aimed towards the waiting head of Mario Jermen but a defender intervened and headed away for corner.

Just one minute later Zvonko Usljebcka went on a solo run down the left and found himself in a one on one situation with Knights' Martin John but his left foot shoot could only find the side netting.



Nick Bosevski: made an impact after coming on as a sub.

The game then went into a complete lull with the only highlight being the introduction of Nick Bosevski who came into the game in place of the injured Jermen.

And it was Bosevski who had the first opportunity in the 27th minute.

Podeljak found himself some room on the left hand side and provided his strikers with a well measured right foot cross which found Bosevski in the best position but his free header was struck well, but without the directional accuracy, and sailed harmlessly past John's right hand post.

The Knights had their first half-chance when newcomer Slavko Rados was put through inside the United box but his first time turn and shoot approach could only find the side netting.

Another half chance came their way in the 36th minute when a one-two between veteran striker Ivan Kelic and Alex Kiratzoglou freed the latter deep inside the United penalty box but his attempted cross along the ground was well blocked by Joe Moric.

The Knights' best chance came in the 39th minute when sweeper Ante Kovacevic positioned himself deep inside United's half wide on the right and provided a perfectly placed cross onto the head of Kiratzoglou standing well inside the six yard box and with plenty of free space. To the frustration of Kovacevic and his team-mates Kiratzoglou proceeded to miss a chance that seemed easier to score from than miss.

The half petered out in the last few minutes with the half time score a perfectly understandable nil-all.

The second half opened a little more lively than the first with Bozinovski making a good run down the right wing but his attempted cross from inside the penalty box was easily blocked.

And it wasn't long before the opening goal was scored by the experienced campaigner Michael Reda.

In the 52nd minute the midfielder beat a couple of defenders on the left and as he came infield he attempted to curve the ball beyond the 'keeper. The ball hit the young sweeper Greg Saric on the way and

was deflected beyond the despairing dive of 'keeper Steve Tolios and entered the back of the net beyond.

The Knights had a chance to put the game beyond doubt in the 60th minute when substitute Paul Urlovic beat two defenders on the left and played a ball infield to Kelic whose rasping shot was pushed away for a corner by Tolios.

From the resultant clearance Usljebcka headed the ball over the Knights' last line of defence for Bosevski to chase.

The United forward was quicker to the ball than Vargas and was able to get to the ball first and as he headed towards the goal a tangle of arms and legs brought down just outside the box.

Referee Brett Hugo ruled that it was a last man tackle and had no hesitation in showing the red card to Vargas.

In the 66th minute Saric fed a ground ball to Bosevski retreating from the Knights' goal - he turned his man well and from just outside the box unleashed a wicked shot which flew low just outside John's left post.

From the corner clearance Kelic was first to the ball and took it inside the box and found himself one on one with Tolios but his left foot shot was well smothered by the 'keeper.

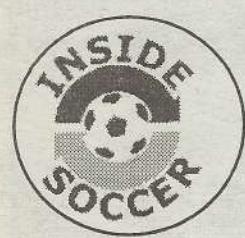
Urlovic found himself in a similar situation in the 76th minute after the ball lost deep in his own half by Saric but Tolios was again equal to the test.

Then a two minute spell that produced two good goals. In the 85th minute substitute Dragi Nastevski put over a cross from the right to the far post where Kelic headed it back across the goal towards Urlovic who had no trouble heading the ball into the net off Tolios' left post to record the second goal for the Knights.

It looked as if the goal would make the game safe for the Knights but Bosevski had other ideas.

Virtually from the kick-off he charged down the middle, veered a little towards the right and smashed a superb shot into the back of the net with a little help from the underside of the crossbar.

United kept on attacking in search of the equaliser but the Knights' defence held out to record a good victory over a, yet again, unlucky Sydney United.



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# Super Stallions stun below-par Champions



## SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 Curcija 54. MARCONI STALLIONS 2

McDonald 26, Coveny 77 og

Sunday afternoon at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 6,128.

## MATCH STATS:



**SOUTH MELBOURNE:**  
Jones, Iosifidis, Blatsis (Orlic 46), Liparoti, Lozanovski, Clarkson, Panopoulos (Tsekinis 80), Vlahos, Trimboli (c), Curoja, Coveny. Sub not used: Alagich.



**MARCONI STALLIONS:**  
Aceski, Longo, Babic, Farah, Smith, McDonald (Care 18), Gibson, Maloney (c) (Invincible 84), Zoric, Trajanovski, Duric (Karl 76).

## Yellows:

South: Panopoulos (47), Orlic (61), Curcija (71).

Marconi: Smith (56).

## Best Players:

3. CARE (STALLIONS)  
2. Vlahos (South)  
1. Gibson (South)

Referee: Eddie Lennie



Vaughan Coveny ... unlucky own goal.

By Alan Clark

The pre-game banner that the South Melbourne players burst through marked a double celebration. Captain Paul Trimboli's 338th and record-equalling South appearance took up half the big blue space, the other was to commemorate Kiwi Vaughan Coveny achieving more than 200 NSL games.

But Coveny will not look back on this one as one of his favourites, putting an own-goal past Chris Jones for Marconi's winner in a tight game which ended 2-1 to the Sydney team.

It was Coveny's header in his own six-yard box from a corner, with Dominic Longo putting on the pressure, which did the damage.

Until then the game had been well-balanced, both sides playing attacking football, and not allowing a pitch which cut up too easily disturb their willingness to play the considered pass.

Stallions' coach Eddie Krncevic took the win in his stride, saying after the game, "It was always going to be a hard game, but it's a good three points for us. We've started to play some good football now."

"Our boys worked very hard today, they were very determined. I'm pleased for them," he said. "They know how hard it is coming to Bob Jane Stadium, they couldn't remember when it was they got a result here - it's quite a while ago."

Krnicevic said the win extended Marconi's unbeaten run to seven games. "It's the business end of the season. The more points you can pick up now, (the better) you cement a spot in the Top Six."

It was South's second consecutive loss on home soil and the third this season, after being impregnable there for the best part of three campaigns. What once was a ground where the visitor felt the gain of a single point was a victory, is now a place where the away team feels more can be attained.

But despite South's recent form-slide, coach Ange Postecoglou was upbeat after the match, focusing on the remaining games ahead, and still dismissing those who believe his squad has reached and passed their peak.

"Where things were going for us last year or the year before, now they're not," was Postecoglou's assessment.

"We've had an extraordinarily good run over the last three years, but this (bad series of results) is part of football too. You can't always be on top. Through everyone's career, you go through patches where you've just got to battle, and we're in that sort of position now. You can't always be front-runners - sport doesn't work that way."

"It was pretty hard to play well - the pitch wasn't in great condition, but we created enough opportunities. It was on a knife-edge at one-all. We had a couple of good chances, and if one of them had gone in, we may have won it. But they didn't and Marconi took their chances and took the points," said Postecoglou.

Christian Care, only on the park for nine minutes following his introduction in place of Darren McDonald opened the scoring after 26 minutes with a low drive struck from well outside the 18-yard-box which beat Chris Jones' dive and went in low at the far post.

Care had been the beneficiary of a move which had an uncharacteristic loose pass as its genesis. Steve Iosifidis had seemed to have an abundance of time and options as he made room up the defensive right, but launched his pass directly at Vlado Zoric who gratefully accepted the gift.

Zoric played a square ball pass into the path of an unmarked Care who struck his shot with clinical precision.

Care had been dropped from the starting eleven by Krncevic as a result of Care's indiscipline. "The only reason he didn't start today was that he got yellow cards for dissent, so he needed to learn."



Christian Care ... man of the match and scorer of the first goal.

said the Stallions' stylish coach.

It was not a start that South wanted, or the crowd had hoped for.

Within three minutes, South had two gilt-edged opportunities arising from corners, but took neither.

In the first, Goran Lozanovski sent in a deep ball to Con Blatsis at the far post. Blatsis' header went across the face of goal and Trimboli just failed to reach it to turn it in under pressure from Stallions' hard-working captain Brad Moloney.

The crowd's dissection of this misfortune had not concluded before their despair was doubled. This time it was Lozanovski with a corner from the opposite side, and Robert Liparoti with the first effort sending the ball to Michael Curoja at the post, but Marconi keeper David Aceski managed to block. It fell for Trimboli, with his back to goal.

Another player may not have backed himself, but Trimboli took a swing as he turned and despite the home support willing it in, watched as it sailed agonisingly over the far top corner of the goal.

South's continued to press, but were only to garner a solitary goal for their efforts.

It was Olyroo Curcija who levelled just after the restart with a tap-in from a Steve Panopoulos cross from the right, after Aceski failed to take what should have been a regulation catch.

The move had begun with a free-kick in a position that allowed Lozanovski to line up behind it after Coveny had been fouled. Lozanovski played a ball into the box which was part-cleared to where tall defender Liparoti had moved. Liparoti played a ball back up the line to Panopoulos for Panopoulos to send in a high hopeful cross.

Aceski came for the ball, but failed to hold it, and Curcija gleefully smacked the ball into the net unchallenged from six yards.

But it was the unlucky

Coveny who put past Jones with thirteen minutes remaining which completed the scoring, and let Marconi take all three points on offer, consolidating its Top Six position.

Jones had seconds earlier made a top-drawer save, turning around the post a swerving goal-bound shot from the outside of Chad Gibson's right boot after Moloney had set him up from a corner, to concede the second corner that Coveny will rather forget.

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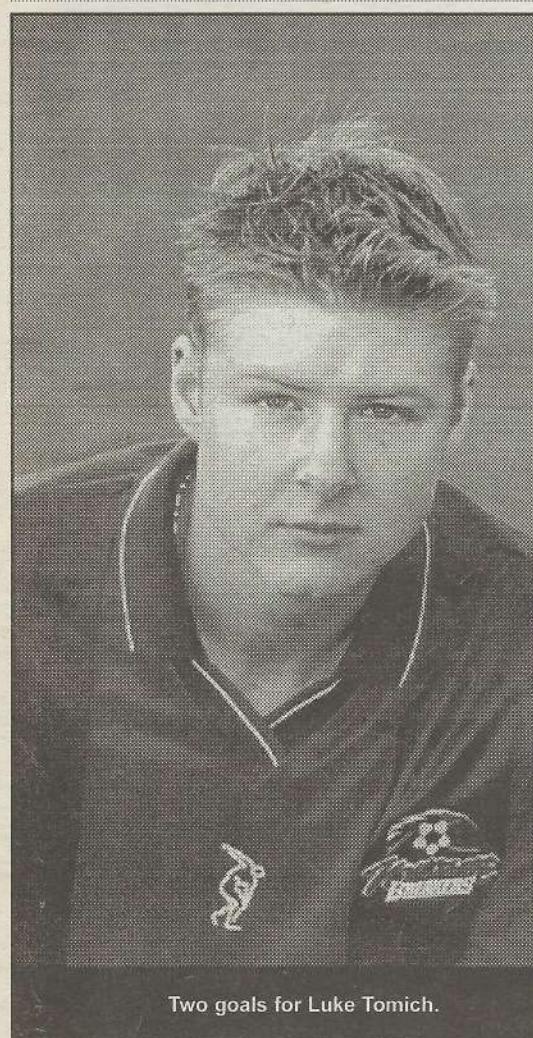
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## POWER STUMBLE BUT RETAIN LEAD



Two goals for Luke Tomich.

**R**ichard Beazley was in Canberra to see the AIS score a convincing 3-2 win over a physical and determined QAS team at the AIS fields on Sunday afternoon.

It was the AIS team's first win after a lean few weeks which has seen the team narrowly go down to Newcastle Colts and

Youth sides by the single goal.

QAS took the lead in the eighth minute after a free kick by Russell Miner eluded AIS goalkeeper Andrew Carman.

The 1-0 scoreline remained until shortly after the commencement of the second half when Steven Pace levelled the score with a strike in the 53rd minute.

AIS took the lead in the 65th minute with a goal to Mark Tsiorlas who made up for last week's several missed chances with a strike on goal that gave Coe no chance.

QAS then drew level with Miner's second goal in the 85th minute and this looked to be the final goal until AIS substitute striker Franco Parisi's shot beat Coe for a well deserved win.

The AIS's goalkeeper, Carman, said after the match "The lads put in a solid effort after Friday's long trip to Newcastle and thoroughly deserved these points."

"I believe if we play like that every week we will beat the top sides in the competition."

Best for QAS were striker Miner, midfielder Farmer and goalkeeper Coe. For the AIS striker Mimi Saric, midfielders Dustin Wells and Australian Schoolboy defender David Tarka stood out in a fine team effort.

**AIS:** Carman, Fay, Mailer, Tarka, Sekulovski, Talevski (Smith), Pace (Rainey), Wells, Johnson, Tsiorlas (Parisi), Saric.

**QAS:** Coe, McKain, Heath, Byrne, Dreger, Varma, Richter, Cawley (Messina), Miner, Drake, Walsh (McKay).

**T**heo Katsaros reports that a double from Luke Tomich and singles to Joshua Ferguson and Peter Juchniewicz lifted the Newcastle Breakers into the top four for the first time this season.

The 4-3 win over reigning champions the A.I.S. sees the Breakers in 4th place on the league ladder.

The A.I.S. led after a goal within 60 seconds to Mark Tsiorlas and doubled their lead in the 21st minute via Mitchell Johnson. However, the Breakers fought back brilliantly and scored four successive goals to ensure another home victory. Tsiorlas added his second four minutes from time but time ran out for the visitors.

The Parramatta Power were fortunate to escape with a point when they hosted the Q.A.S. on Friday night. After a scoreless first stanza, the visitors took the advantage with a 57th minute strike from Daniel Dreger.

The hosts seemed to be in trouble but were saved by substitute Daniel Cabrera. Cabrera was introduced into the game with a quarter of an hour to go and scored the equaliser in the 87th minute.

The A.C.T.A.S. overcame a spirited Wollongong Wolves outfit to record an impressive 3-0 away win. The match was sealed in the 89th minute when substitute Paul Ivanic found the back of the net.

The visitors took 1-0 half-time lead and doubled that lead after 59 minutes. Adam Williams netting both goals for the boys from Canberra.

Sydney United scored twice in the second half to record a 2-0 win over the Sydney Olympic Academy at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

Steven Ralevski broke the deadlock five minute into the second period before Allan Lo Proto netted his 10th goal this season to seal the result.

Francis Awaritefe struck after 2 minutes and Rod Sandoval increased the lead after 11 minutes as the Marconi Stallions Colts took a 2-0 lead against the Sydney United Colts. Alex Brosque scored in the 56th minute for the Stallions to end the scoring. The Stallions used the services of regular first graders Awaritefe, Brendan Renaud and Pan-Keun Kim to lift their team to a 3-0 result.

The Northern Spirit thumped Sydney Olympic by four goals to one at the Belmore Sports Ground to secure 2nd spot in the league. Olympic played well below their best and the Spirit took full advantage.

Ryan Griffiths scored his 14th goal to give the Spirit the lead at the break. Adam Snyder doubled the lead after 55 minutes before Lee Miot reduced the lead five minutes later. The Spirit then killed off Olympic's fight-back when Snyder struck again in the 66th minute. Antonio Faria sealed the result with his team's fourth goal in the 86th minute.

The Northern Spirit Colts took a 2-0 lead within 7 minutes but fell at the final hurdle in their attempt to defeat the N.S.W.I.S. at Valentine Park. Artin Saginian and Ismael Arrarte scored for the Spirit before a second-half assault from the hosts turned the game on its head.

The hosts reduced the deficit on 68 minutes courtesy of a David Carney goal and continued to pour on the pressure searching for an equaliser. It seemed as though the visitors would hold on but the introduction of 14 year old Nick Stavroulakis to the fray with five minutes to go was inspired.

Stavroulakis won his side a last minute penalty which Brett Holman converted. The late strike gave the N.S.W.I.S. an unlikely 2-2 draw.

The Newcastle Breakers Colts and Marconi Stallions clash will be deferred to a later date due to the Stallions involvement in the Viareggio Youth Soccer Tournament in Italy.

By Roy Hay

**T**he Melbourne Knights turned the game between the Youth team and the Academy into a real test for all taking part, particularly the youth players seeking to impress senior coach Vlado Vanis.

So four regular seniors, Dragi Nastevski, Paul Urlovic, Jason Vukadin, Roddy Vargas and Hrvoje Matkovic lined up with the Academy to put the Youth through its paces.

A high quality and fiercely competitive match resulted with the Youth getting home by two goals to one. Marin Kolceg opened for the Youth in 19 minutes and more than an hour had passed before Jasmin Sehic managed to conjure up a second goal.

A quick reply by Michael Vorja in 71 minutes set up a rip-roaring finish but the Youth came out on top. Coach Luciano Trani was delighted with the effort and commitment of the Youth team into which he introduced 13 year old Serkan Oksuz late in the game. This young striker banged in forty goals in the Super League last year and is definitely one to watch. Apart from the goalscorers Daniel Bilaver, Ivan Gelemanovic and wing back Chris Tabak caught the eye.

Simon Colosimo made his long awaited come-back for Carlton in the match against Bulleen which ended in a one-all draw on Saturday.

Unfortunately for Colosimo, after being on the receiving end of some pretty hefty challenges, he protested too loudly to the referee and received a red card, which will delay his return to senior soccer.

Dusko Delic scored Carlton's goal and Xhezair Sulemani equalised for Bulleen with his seventh goal of the season.

Gippsland Falcons overwhelmed Preston Lions by six goals to one, but it was Preston who took the lead after only five minutes with a goal by Zoran Alexovski.

Thereafter the Falcons stepped up a gear and Tony Pardo equalised after 11 minutes. Next came Peter Kakos with the first of his hat-trick in 20 minutes. In the second half Ben Cassar was on target in 58, Pardo again in 68 and Kakos completed his hat-trick in 82 and 89 minutes.

The VIS proved too strong for South Dandenong winning by three goals to one. Playing with the wind the VIS struck after only two minutes through David Terek.

Evan Papadopoulos made it two in 36 and just after the interval Terek scored his second. Christian Barra replied for South Dandenong a minute later with a header which struck a defender on the way in.

For once South Dandenong's squad was less disciplined, perhaps missing key players such as the Memetis, Festim Zekiri and Lirim Rasimi. The VIS midfield ran the show.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION NYL

<b>Melb Knights Academy</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Melbourne Knights</b>
Vonja		Kolceg, Sehic
Preston Lions	1	Gippsland Falcons
Alexovski		6
Cassar		Kakos 3, Pardo 2,
Carlton	1	Bulleen Inter
South Dandenong	1	1
Barra	*	Terek 2, Papadopoulos
South Melbourne v Fawkner Blues		
(Match postponed)		
Albury Wodonga v Bye		

	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Carlton	13	10	3	0	47	8 33
VIS	13	9	1	3	35	11 28
Bulleen Kings	14	8	2	4	37	23 26
Melb. Knights	13	7	2	4	37	25 23
South Melbourne	11	6	0	5	29	12 18
Gipps. Falcons	12	5	3	4	23	25 1
South Dandenong	13	5	3	5	19	24 18
Fawkner Blues	12	3	3	6	13	26 12
Knights Academy	11	3	0	8	10	19 9
Albury Wodonga	13	2	2	9	18	46 8
Preston Lions	13	1	1	11	12	61 4

NORTHERN DIVISION NYL							
	P	W	D	B	L	F	A Pts
Parramatta Power	22	16	4	1	2	62	17 52
Northern Spirit	21	15	3	1	3	66	25 48
Sydney Olympic	21	13	3	2	5	57	30 42
N'castle Breakers	21	13	1	1	6	41	25 40
A.I.S.	21	12	2	1	7	65	31 38
Q.A.S.	21	12	2	2	7	56	34 38
Marconi Stallions	18	12	0	1	6	50	24 36
Wollongong Wolves	21	10	2	1	9	31	32 32
Sydney United	19	10	1	1	8	31	36 31
A.C.T.A.S.	21	8	6	2	7	33	40 30
Newcastle Colts	22	8	2	1	12	34	43 26
Olympic Academy	21	8	1	2	12	40	67 25
N.S.W.I.S.	20	5	4	2	11	33	36 19
Marconi Colts	22	5	4	1	13	34	61 19
Northern Spirit Colts	22	4	4	1	14	23	54 16
Sydney United Colts	20	3	3	2	14	22	49 12
Wollongong Colts	19	0	2	1	17	9	83 2

## ROUND 23

Newcastle Breakers	4	A.I.S.	3
Ferguson 28, Tomich 53, 67, Juchniewicz 76		Tsiorlas 1, 86, Johnson 21	
Parramatta Power	1	Q.A.S.	1
Cabrera 87		Dreger 57	
A.I.S.	3	Q.A.S.	2
Pace 53, Tsiorlas 65, Parisi 90		Miner 8, 85	
Wollongong Wolves Colts	0	A.C.T.A.S.	3
		Williams 1, 59, Ilicic 89	
Sydney United	2	Olymp. Academy	0
Ralevski 49, Lo Proto 87			
Marconi Stallions Colts	3	Syd.United Colts	0
Awaritefe 2, Sandoval 11, Brosque 56			
Sydney Olympic	1	Northern Spirit	4
Miot 60'		R Griffiths 37, Snyder 55', 66', Faria 86'	
N.S.W.I.S.	2	Nort. Spirit Colts	2
(Carney 68, Holman 89 pen)		Saginian 3, Arrarte 7	

# Marconi shows its class at Viareggio Cup

The Marconi Stallions Youth side played their first group match in downtown Florence, Italy against Italian powerhouse S.S. Napoli and were defeated 1-0 courtesy of a dubious 'home-town' decision for a penalty in the 55th minute.

The penalty was awarded to the Italian team when young Stallion defender Anthony Hartshorn was judged to have brought down a Napoli striker inside the penalty area.

What seemed an unjust decision at first viewing, was confirmed upon viewing the video replay after the match, as the Napoli attacker's dive was rewarded with the only scoring play of the match.

Marconi were never seriously threatened throughout the match and indeed had the best goal scoring chances of the game in the final frantic 15 minutes.

Erick Anabalon had two fantastic opportunities in the 84th and 86th minutes respectively, only to be thwarted by an unlucky bounce and the crossbar.

Many astute judges watching the match, deemed the loss to be an unjust result for the young Marconi team; a view shared by Napoli's

Junior Football Director Signor Montefusco whom stated to the media entourage present that Marconi were "a very impressive team".

Best players for the Stallions were Daniel Severino, Victor Tomasevic, Michael Beauchamp and guest player Eddie Bosnar, whilst Michael Turnbull in goals did everything with his usual aplomb and also impressed the many European judges in attendance.

In the second game Marconi played

the Campinas Club which is owned by former Napoli and Brazilian International player Careca who also coaches their Youth team participating in the championships.

With significant justification, the Marconi Youth team could feel aggrieved by the opening match result against Napoli. However, this second match was one where the youngsters performed admirably to earn a competitive score, albeit a losing one.

The 1-0 loss was determined by a long range effort from Campinas striker Jefferton in the 50th minute.

The industrious nature of Australian soccer, with fierce competitiveness and determination was best exemplified by the sturdy displays in defence and through the midfield, and although Campinas enjoyed territorial advantage throughout the game, shots on goal were at a premium.

Conversely, the limited opportunities the young Stallions had to score were snuffed out by a very good Brazilian outfit and many are predicting that this is certainly one of the teams to beat for the

2000 Viareggio crown.

The loss effectively ended Marconi's participation in the tournament and they had only pride to play for in the final group match against

statistics tell the tale of the teams participation this year.

On balance, the results may show three defeats however it should equally be noted that the team's defensive nemesis has been the conceding of two penalties, one long range shot and one well constructed counter attack.

On the offensive front, the team scored one goal and saw the crossbar act as a hindrance over the course of the three matches.

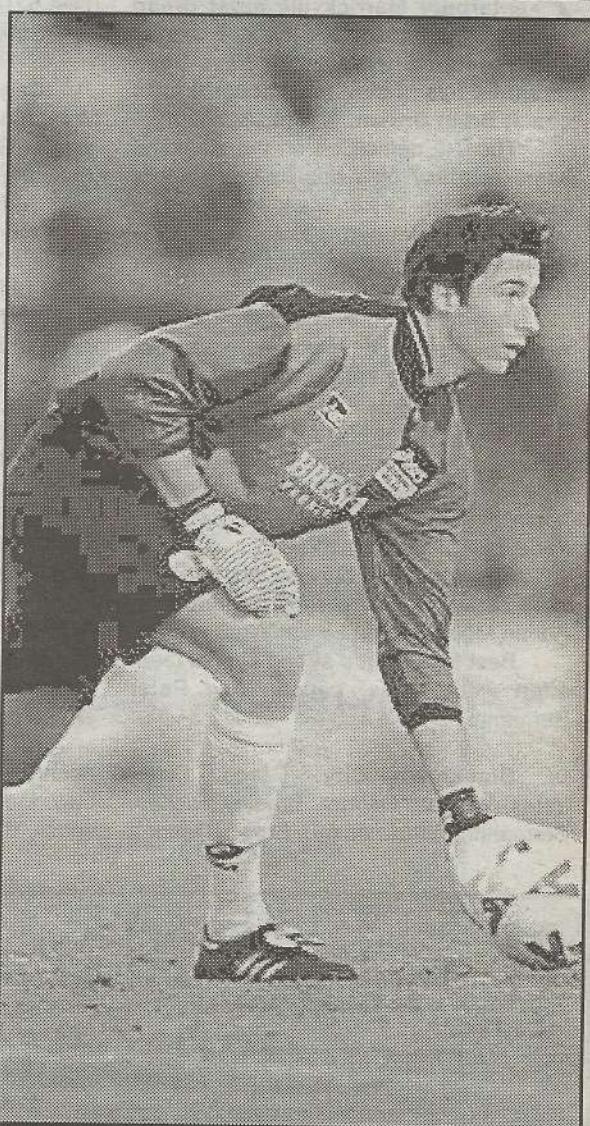
Notwithstanding these elementary facts, the tournament has been an unqualified success for the team, club and Australian soccer as the team were certainly no easy beats and, in fact, have received favourable reviews from numerous European critics.

Once again, the third game was one where lack of experience in pressure football saw the team succumb to a 'killer' goal just prior to halftime, courtesy of another penalty decision.

Perugia doubled the score a minute from fulltime before Marconi scored to make it 2-1 two minutes into injury time courtesy of guest player Eddie Bosnar.

Despite losing all three matches, it has been a successful expedition again for Marconi.

The young Marconi outfit has impressed many judges with English Premier League and Italian Serie A clubs showing particular interest in Marconi 1st Grade squad members; Goalkeeper



Marconi keeper Mike Turnbull has impressed the Europeans with his keeping skills.

Michael Turnbull and striker Daniel Severino.

Reports courtesy of Marconi website: [www.marconifc.com](http://www.marconifc.com)



## BILL TURNER CUP COMING SOON TO INSIDE SOCCER



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15 YEARS SOCCER**

## INDIGENOUS AUSSIE FOR MATILDAS

18-year-old striker Belinda Dawney selected for Sydney 2000 squad.

Reward for scoring a bag full of goals and ending up top scorer in the Ansett Summer Series has been a shot at playing in the Olympics for Queensland's Belinda Dawney.

The striker, 18, who plays for QAS Sting has been added to the Matildas squad seven months before the biggest sporting event on the planet begins.

The Tweed Heads based Year 12 Student was at the AIS recently, and obviously impressed coach Chris Tansey.

Existing strikers Julie Murray (injured) and Sunni Hughes (family illness) paved the way for the young striker, who is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island descent, to come into the squad.

Dawney (right) finished with seven goals from ten games in the Ansett Summer Series, which included on hat-trick.

She has also been a scholarship holder with the Indigenous Sports Program.

Could she be to Soccer what Cathy Freeman is to athletics? One can only hope so, particularly as strikers, and good quality ones at that, are a rare commodity in this country.



# Demons in wicked form



**C**anterbury Marrickville must dread facing Blacktown City. For a second season in a row they have been thrashed by a side that, according to coach Brian Brown, is still improving!

The 7-0 demolition on the weekend came courtesy of a double from former Marconi youth striker Mark Hagger, and singles to Bennett, Bradley, Yates, Kwasnick and exciting Japanese player Naoki Imaya.

In a tactical move Damon Langaon was moved to a deeper defensive role, giving Hagger the spot in the starting line-up, and he did not let his coach down.

Steve Riches moved to central defence, replacing Matt Lowe.

Berries coach John Xipolitas must be hoping his injured stars Mendes, Raeburn, Fedele and Percy return asap.

Best for Canterbury on this dark day were Zoran Ilic, always a hardy performer, Adrian Molachino and Scott Wells.

Best for City in a strong overall team effort were Yates, Langan and Peter Sermanni.

**Blacktown City:** Greco, Foxe, Yates, Langan, Hagger, Bradley, Riches, Sermanni (Marosevic 69), Brown, Bennett

(Dee 52), Imaya (Kwasnick 61). Subs not used: Reid, Salameh

**Canterbury Marrickville:** Mikuletic, Molachino, Ilic, Wells, Christoforidis, Nikas, Galloway, Markopoulos, Vizzari, Joannoli (Nassar 61), Tsigolis.

Subs not used: Bello Amigo, Ferraro.

**T**he NSW Super League takes on a familiar look with powerhouse former NSL team, Blacktown, on top on all three grades.

In First Grade, they share the points with two former NSL sides - the surprise packet of the season so far, St George, and Leichhardt, with Bonnyrigg only one point behind and improving each week. Central Coast - which has lost their last two encounters after a stunning season start - makes up the top five.

Penrith Panthers led at Andrew Road Field from a penalty by Bob Casserly in the 43rd minute, after a foul on Danny Hinton inside the box by an Easts defender and led at the break by the lone goal.

An 85th minute equaliser by Jim Aschner for Easts, who hit the bar twice as they took the game to the home side, shook Penrith, but late substitute Kaan

Davies scrambled the winner in the 88th. Easts had David Blinoff sent off for a bad challenge on the keeper in the 87th.

At Plum Park, Chad Bishop curled a nice free kick around the Central Coast wall in the 28th minute to put Macarthur Rams one up at the break in a game which the Coasties controlled for long periods without the reward of a goal. Richard Lloyd scored a second for the visitors, who played it smart and allowed the Coast to dictate terms, but never gave them any room inside the attacking third and the 72nd minute clincher was the salt in the wound on a day when nothing would go right, in front of goal, for the Coasties.

Manly-Warringah pulled off a shock 2-1 win over Bankstown at Jensen Park, scoring twice inside the first 30 minutes and conceding a goal soon after the restart, but defying the odds to hang on and pick up the first win by a visiting side at the ground this season.

They drafted in former Leichhardt Tigers star Mite Talcevski and included Northern Spirit trialist David Turnbull who arrived in the country from the UK a matter of weeks ago after serving an apprenticeship at Preston North End. They also had Bankstown district player Dean Webb

making his debut and these men all figured prominently in the win.

A weakened Fairfield Bulls took on St George, but when Elias Augerinos rocked the crossbar with a header and the ball fell down and over the line the Saints were able to get in front early in the second period and then went on to win the game 1-0.

John Ghiso got a 5th minute goal for Bonnyrigg at Sutherland and it was almost an hour before Michael Hawrysiuk added a second in the 62nd, despite the visitors losing captain Ben Green in the 40th minute for a second caution.

The in-form Bonnyrigg went on to win 3-1 with Ghiso adding a third three minutes into stoppage time, while Sutherland substitute Scott Allison grabbed a consolation for the Sharks six minutes into time added on.

Parramatta took a 12th minute lead against Leichhardt at Melita Stadium with an Adam Anderson strike, with both teams having players sent off, Yane Talcevski for the Tigers and Malcolm Meilak for the Eagles. Parramatta finished up 3-0 winners.

**N**ick Guoth saw Belconnen United struggled hard against a fighting Australian National University in the first round of the Federation Cup played at Deakin Oval.

It all looked like a possible rout when after only 5 minutes a long thru ball was misjudged by the ANU defence and found Craig Unwin racing towards goal. Unwin placed his shot well sliding the ball just inside the left upright.

With the students conceding speed on the younger Belconnen side it was inevitable that the ANU defence would be beaten on more than one occasion.

Jason Dunn, making a return after a calf injury, was just the one to be instrumental in setting up these opportunities.

Unwin had a chance to double the score just 18 minutes in after he beat the off-side but he sent his shot wide. Then a few minutes later Dunn put Daniel Camara through. He rounded Darren Newington in goals but couldn't control the ball as it drifted over the goal-line.

University had an opportunity late in the half after some good work down the right saw Scott Haig put Michael Wiseman in towards goal. His shot was fierce, but Chris Freeman was up to the task deflecting the ball for a corner.

ANU came out in the second half the more aggressive and were unlucky not to put one past their opponents. Wiseman sent in a ball to fellow striker Scott Channing who laid it off for Steve McIntyre but his shot was blocked away for a corner.

From the ensuing set piece by Rod Lynes, McIntyre outjumped the defence and glanced his header goalwards only for the player on the far post to push wide for another corner.

Belconnen came out of their shell and started to press following this early pressure. An Unwin cross was headed wide by Camara. Then a long throw from Lee Pietrukowski found Jaime Mauro and his first time blast went straight into the midriff of Michael Palfrey.

Then in the 16th minute of the half a ball into the ANU box was headed on by Camara for Unwin to volley off the underside of the crossbar and give his side a more comfortable 2-0 scoreline.

At the half-hour mark, Belconnen should have scored a third. Damian Tunney put Mauro in behind the defence, but with only the keeper to beat he decided to shoot instead of laying it off for any of three team-mates to tap in.

Another five minutes and Belconnen had another three on one, but the layoff by Neil Baranczewicz drew Unwin too wide and his shot went the wrong side of the post.

With just under ten minutes on the clock, Belconnen were somewhat lucky not to have a player sent off. Phil Yamold misplayed a ball allowing Scott Channing to steal it and with no-one else near Yamold brought the ANU striker down. Fortunately for him, the referee adjudged it to be only a cautionable offence.

Unwin had the final shot of the match and after it was well saved by Newington, his deflection still had ANU in danger, but substitute Brett Graham came to the rescue for the students.

**G**eorge Lemon reports that last seasons Premier League champions Capital City Suns were defeated 3-2 by Tuggeranong United in first round action at Riverside Stadium today.

The recently promoted Tuggeranong United made the best of an uninspired start by both teams to draw first blood in the 39th minute. Former Monaro striker Alex Tyne took advantage of a rebound from the Suns keeper, Mick Kirkham, to slam in his first goal for the new club.

Tuggeranong went two goals up midway through the second half after a strike by Mark McCone. The goal left the large crowd in uproar after he appeared to be well off-side.

Three minute later the Suns hit back. Firstly second half replacement Micah Purdy took advantage of a deflection and with two touches guided the ball into the net.

Eight more minutes and Steve Lee spun some magic for the Suns after receiving a great through ball from Tony Aleksoski. Lee chested the ball down and then lobbed it over the United keeper.

At 2-2 the game appeared to be heading for a draw however in injury time Tuggeranong made the most of a goalmouth scramble with Tyne smashing the ball past the Suns rookie keeper for his second goal.

In the earlier game at Riverside Stadium, Canberra Olympic and Weston Creek played out a 1-1 draw. Both teams have been ravaged by players leaving or on duty with the Canberra Cosmos.

Both goals were scored in the first half. Daniel Raad netted for Olympic whilst Steve Braknys responded for Weston.

**N**athan Long was at Canberra Deakin when started their Federation Cup campaign with a shaky 2-1 victory over the University of Canberra on Sunday. Both sides seemed to be working off an off-season hangover, yet Deakin's experience got them over the line.

Uni started attacking from the start, having two genuine chances pushed away by the

Deakin defence. At the other end, Anthony Barac and Tony Lemezina were proving a handful, weaving in and out of the defence, feeding off each other, and just being a general nuisance to the Uni backline.

As the first half continued UC toward Simon Foxhill and team mate Scott Anderson became more dangerous, creating small breaks down the side lines through hustling and a willingness to counter attack quickly.

About 15 minutes in, Deakin's Markezic was given a yellow card for a dangerous tackle. Fifteen minutes later Deakin scored through Luka Ujdr.

Anthony Barac dribbled to the left of the goal square and fed the ball back inside where Lemezina and Ujdr were waiting. Ujdr shot under the diving keeper Martyn Smith to put Deakin up 1-0.

Uni came back and a neat flurry of passing down the left side ended with Anderson's shot being blocked by Navmovski. Just before halftime, Deakin had another chance when Ujdr worked a quick 1-2 with Lemezina before shooting straight at the keeper.

Straight after halftime Michael Barac had a shot at goal which beat Uni keeper Smith before being headed away by Nick Behr in a great reflex action. Later on, Uni's Andrew Rankine had a shot tipped away from the top left hand corner by Navmovski.

From the ensuing corner Foxhill narrowly shot behind the near post.

Sixty five minutes in, Deakin scored again through Anthony Barac. After receiving a ball through the middle, Barac threaded his way between Marchant and Behr and fired off a hard volley at the keeper. The shot rebounded and Barac beat Lemezina to the scraps for a 2-0 lead.

Anderson later received the game's second yellow card for dissenting a referees decision. Ten minutes from fulltime, Nick Behr angled a shot from close on the left side past Navmovski to cut Deakin's lead in half.

Just before the end, Ujdr had a shot rocket off the post after a Lemezina chance was spoiled because of too many touches and a good scrambling defence.

For Deakin, the enigmatic Ujdr, and Barac and Lemezina were best while Foxhill and Anderson stood out for Uni.

Deakin coach Bernie Lustica was pleased with the win, but thought his sides finishing could use some work.

The White Eagles snatched a 2-all draw in the dying stages of their Federation Cup tie against Burns Club at Jamison oval on Sunday. The Eagles can consider themselves unlucky to have not won the game by a big margin considering the sheer number of chances they missed.

A spectacular game by Burns Club goalkeeper Jim Carr, in his return match after two years out of soccer, denied the Eagles the equaliser until well into injury time.

Burns Club opened up a 2-0 lead in the first half through two goals to Andrew Wallace from the penalty spot.

The first penalty came after the referee penalised Mark Stoya for a push in the back during a contest for a ball in the air. Wallace placed the ball in the bottom right hand corner of the net for a 1-0 lead.

About thirty minutes in, another penalty was awarded for a similar offence against Peter Josifoski. Wallace again placed the ball in the bottom right hand corner to extend the Burns Club lead.

The rest of the first half degenerated into a spiteful encounter with three yellow cards being issued for dangerous tackles from behind, two against the Eagles, one against Burns.

The dour and nasty first half contrasted greatly to the second, where the Eagles threw out all stops in an attacking blitz. They struck early when a corner from Aleksic rebounded off Burns Club defender Karl Varley's back for an own goal.

From then on the the game was all one way traffic with Carr turning back shot after shot. Burns Club had only one half chance, a long range shot which sailed over the crossbar.

The young and inexperienced Burns Club side was on the defensive, and under the continual pressure, was unable to retain enough possession to mount any form of attack.

Five minutes from the end, Aleksic curled a corner in towards goal which Gus Cerro headed home to tie the score. Burns Club held out the final five minutes to hang on for the draw.

After a completed first round, with the early game last weekend seeing Juventus win 4-1 over Monaro, the tables are:

**Group 1:**

Tuggeranong United 3, Weston Creek 1,

Canberra Olympic 1, Capital City Suns 0

**Group 2:**

Canberra Deakin 3, White Eagles 1, Burns

Club 1, University of Canberra 0

**Group 3:**

Gungahlin Juventus 3, Belconnen United 3,

ANU 0, Monaro 0

# COASTIES DOMINATE BUT LOSE POINTS

**CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 0**

**MACARTHUR RAMS 2**

Bishop 28, Lloyd 71.

Saturday night at Plum Park, Central Coast. Crowd: 521.

**T**he laws of soccer state that the team scoring the highest number of goals win the match - unfortunately for the Coasties it is not the team that has the majority of play. On Saturday night at Plum Park they learnt this lesson.

The Coasties, conservatively, had 60-65% of the player, were camped in the opposition's half for long periods and ran out losers 2-0.

To the credit of Macarthur Rams they did their homework - let the opposition attack and pack the penalty area with defenders, frustrate the opposition and counter attack. In other words they played a typical away strategy which most teams adopt in the modern game.

A good strategy and, as the result indicates, it worked to a treat.

The Coasties played some great team football but when they got in to the penalty area they ran out of ideas - especially goal scoring ones.

The first time Gary Meier, Coasties' goalkeeper, touched the ball was in the 13th minute when Richard Lloyd headed wide from a corner and Meier played had to take the goal kick.

The second time he touched it was when Chad Bishop scored a brilliant 'Brazilian' goal when he bent the ball over the wall from a free-kick just outside the penalty area that left the defenders and Meier standing in bewilderment and all the 'keeper could was to pick the ball out of the back of the net.

Up at the other end the Coasties were getting more frustrated. Peter Preston was giving young Rams' fullback, Graeme Goodfellow a nightmare up the wing as he continually took the ball down to the corner flag and putting over several goal mouth crossed only to see the ball either well taken by Rams' goalie Peter Munsie or cleared away by a defender.

Stuart Sontag had a great 20 metre drive brilliantly saved by Munsie while Palu Roberts and Nathan Byrn set up a good move with Byrn shooting wide. Preston put over another cross for Roberts whose header was well saved by Munsie

and Brent Demery put a great ball through to Byrn but the Rams' 'keeper rescued his side again.

The second half started just as the first one had ended, with the Coasties continuously on the attack.

Roberts had a goal-bound shot parried by Munsie with the ball rolling towards the goal but a defender came from nowhere to clear the ball.

The onslaught continued until the 71st minute when a Rams attack caused a mix up in the Coasties defence and Lloyd coolly tapped the ball into an empty net to wrap up the match.

The Coasties pressed on but it seemed that most of the players had 'run their race' and the substitutions that were brought on made little difference to the game.

Macarthur's master plan had worked to perfection and the Coasties were unable to come up with a counter to the visitor's well executed strategy.

The Rams were naturally elated with the result and will continue to cause problems to the top teams in the future matches whilst the Coasties will have to go away, regroup and learn to score goals - and win at home!

The only pleasing event for the Coasties was that veteran (in length of service, not years of age) Mark Drysdale celebrated his 300th senior match for the club and a presentation was made to him just before the kick off. Well done Mark - pity you could not have completed the night with a win, but there's always next time.

**CENTRAL COAST COASTIES:** Meier, Matthews, Steele, Drysdale, Peatey, Preston, Knight (Binskin), Byrn (Roper) Roberts, Sontag, Demery.

**MACARTHUR RAMS:** Munsie, Goodfellow, Willard, Bourke, O'Shea, McDonald (Newell), Williams (Risby), Cummings (Bentjelsen), Lloyd, Bishop, Judge.

**Top scorers:** Johnny Ghiso Bonnyrigg 8, Steve Karavatis Leichhardt 7, Mark Hagger Blacktown 6, Nikolce Joseski Parramatta 6, Jimmy Aschner Eastern Suburbs 5, Jim Bakis St George 5

## Super League Tables

FIRST GRADE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Blacktown City Demons	8	5	1	2	25	7	16	18
St George Saints	8	5	1	2	15	8	16	7
Leichhardt Tigers	8	5	1	2	19	14	16	5
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	8	5	0	3	22	16	15	6
Central Coast Coasties	8	4	2	2	15	10	14	5
Parramatta Eagles	8	3	3	2	18	13	12	5
Bankstown City Lions	8	3	3	2	12	9	12	3
Canterbury Marrickville	8	4	0	4	14	22	12	-8
Macarthur Rams	8	2	3	3	12	12	9	0
Manly Warringah Dolphins	8	2	3	3	11	13	9	-2
Fairfield Bulls	8	2	2	4	10	13	8	-3
Penrith Panthers	8	2	1	5	7	22	7	-15
Eastern Suburbs	8	2	0	6	9	15	6	-6
Sutherland Sharks	8	2	0	6	10	25	6	-15

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Blacktown City Demons	8	5	2	1	17	10	17	7
Central Coast Coasties	8	5	2	1	11	7	17	4
Leichhardt Tigers	8	5	1	2	17	12	16	5
Penrith Panthers	8	5	0	3	20	15	15	5
Parramatta Eagles	8	4	1	3	14	11	13	3
St George Saints	8	3	3	2	14	7	12	7
Manly Warringah Dolphins	8	3	1	4	17	17	10	0
Macarthur Rams	8	3	1	4	10	18	10	-8
Eastern Suburbs	8	2	3	3	15	17	9	-2
Canterbury Marrickville	8	3	0	5	15	18	9	-3
Sutherland Sharks	8	2	3	3	12	18	9	-6
Fairfield Bulls	8	2	2	4	11	15	8	-4
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	8	1	3	4	8	13	6	-5
Bankstown City Lions	8	1	2	5	14	17	5	-3

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Blacktown City Demons	8	6	2	0	16	5	20	11
Parramatta Eagles	8	6	1	1	24	7	19	17
Fairfield Bulls	8	6	0	2	19	10	18	9
Leichhardt Tigers	8	5	2	1	23	14	17	9
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	8	4	2	2	12	6	14	6
Central Coast Coasties	8	3	2	3	19	16	11	3
Macarthur Rams	8	3	2	3	10	11	11	-1
Bankstown City Lions	8	3	2	3	11	16	11	-5
Eastern Suburbs	8	2	3	3	10	17	9	-7
Sutherland Sharks	8	2	2	4	11	10	8	1
Penrith Panthers	8	1	4	3	9	9	7	0
St George Saints	8	1	2	5	7	27	5	-20
Manly Warringah Dolphins	8	1	0	7	7	15	3	-8
Canterbury Marrickville	8	0	2	6	7	22	2	-15

## SUPER LEAGUE



### ROUND NINE

Saturday 4 March

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Fairfield Bulls - Serbian Centre  
Macarthur Rams v Sutherland Sharks - Lynwood Park

Games 7.00pm (1st grade)-5.00pm (21s)-3.00pm (18s).

Sunday 5 March

St George Saints v Eastern Suburbs - St George Stadium  
Canterbury Marrickville v Central Coast - Henson Park  
Parramatta Eagles v Blacktown City - Melita Stadium  
Penrith Panthers v Bankstown City - Andrews Road Field  
Leichhardt Tigers v Manly Warringah - Lambert Park

Games 5.00pm (1st grade)-3.00pm (21s)-1.00pm (18s).

Catch all the latest news on football in NSW in **Super Soccer OUT 2 March!**

[www.soccernsw.com.au](http://www.soccernsw.com.au)

### FIRST GRADE: SUPER LEAGUE

**SUTHERLAND SHARKS 1**

Allison 90+.

**BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 3**

Ghiso 5,90+, Hawrysiuk 62.

**CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 0**

**MACARTHUR RAMS 2**

Bishop 35, Lloyd 67.

**BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 7**

Bennett 9, Hagger 27,77, Bradley 29, Yates 35, Imaya 47, Kwasnik 83.

**CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 0**

Casserley 43 pen, Davies 88.

**EASTERN SUBURBS 1**

Aschner 85.

**PARRAMATTA EAGLES 3**

Anderson 12, Joseski 77,82.

**LEICHHARDT TIGERS 0**

Beldham 15, Webb 35.

**FAIRFIELD BULLS 0**

**ST GEORGE SAINTS 1**

P

**UNDER 21:**

Sutherland Sharks 2

Bonnyrigg W. Eagles 2

Central Coast 2

Macarthur Rams 2

Blacktown City 3

Canterbury M'kville 1

Penrith Panthers 5

Eastern Suburbs 3

Parramatta Eagles 1

Leichhardt Tigers 2

Bankstown City Lions 4

Manly Warringah 4

Fairfield Bulls 0

St George 3

### UNDER 18:

<tbl



# Olyroo: Raphael Bove

## 'My footy show appearance in Italy!'

**A**s part of Soccer Australia's Olyroo focus, former Sydney Olympic defender Olyroo Raphael Bove spoke with them about life in his new home at Livorno in Tuscany.

"Yeah, life's good, no, in fact it's great at Livorno, and hopefully I'll be making my senior debut against Spal, so it will get better."

"I feel like I've fallen back on my feet at this Club which is a huge relief ... I've just gone through a pretty tough 12 months where I left my Club in Holland (Heerenveen), spent a bit of time looking for a new club before I signed up with Dundee United (Scottish Premier League) for three months, and now I feel like I've come home."

"I'm rejuvenated, my concentration and commitment is 150%, and I'm looking forward to getting things back on track."

"We had a week off in the League last weekend, so the club organized a friendly against a Bosnian side, and I played the full 90 minutes in that, and the town's papers were saying they thought I did really well."

"Physically I felt really good after it, so hopefully that's all counting in my favour."

"I was really hoping to make my debut two weeks ago against Lecco, but a slight mishap at a friendly took care of that one."

"Every Thursday we play a 'friendly game' ... it's like Sydney Olympic playing a State League Team, or sometimes playing against your youth team or your local eleven, and it's done on a weekly basis

right through every Division here, basically so that coach can play his formation and work out what he wants to do on the weekend."

"Anyway, about 15 minutes into the game, I went up for a ball against a striker ... I got the ball, the striker got me in the back of the head and I was seeing stars."

"Actually, there was blood everywhere - our away strip, which is white, wasn't looking too good at this stage - so I had to go off and get some stitches put in, but of course I insisted on coming back on."

"So they gave me the mummy bandage and back on I went - until I saw three balls on the pitch, and then I knew it was time to quit!"

"It's quite amazing though, because we normally have anywhere up to 300 people watching us at any training session, and last Friday there were about 400 people ... girls taking photos, all the old men deciding who should be playing, they're all there."

"Livorno is very much a big Club in Serie C and it's only when you realise that the Club has around 8,500 season ticket holders, then the expectations of the fans really hits home."

"I mean apart from the big three-four in Serie B, like Napoli, Sampdoria, Brescia, where the average crowds in that division are around the 4,000 mark, but against Pisa a few weeks ago, we had

16,000."

"Training is an experience in itself ... because we didn't have a game this weekend, the Coach gave us three days off after the Lecco game, and then destroyed us last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with three double sessions, which includes time in the gym, lots of sprints and hill climbs, and mini games, either 7-on-7 on the full pitch which means you run a lot, or other variations on half pitch."

"I can tell you it keeps us all on our toes."

offs."

"The lifestyle in general is so different to what I went through in Holland and Scotland, you just can't compare it ... the training facilities and techniques are so different - culturally I feel right at home."

"I speak the language and of course the food is absolutely brilliant."

Livorno is also on the water, it's a port city of Tuscany up the coast from Pisa, and I'm actually staying at a beach resort which is 7-8 minutes from Livorno, and a lot of the players live here, so we spend a lot of time together."

"Actually, the players and fans acceptance has been great - I'm actually half a foreigner to them, but everyone is keen to learn as much as they can about Australia, everyone wants to come over so there's regular question times on our lifestyle."

"I made my television debut the other day, on a programme called Amaranto, which is probably something along the lines of the Footy Show. "Amaranto is also the colour of our jersey, and we're called the Amaranti."

"Amaranto is also the colour of our jersey, and we're called the Amaranti."

"Anyway, that was a funny experience, especially when an employee of the hotel where I'm staying rang up during question time, and asked me on purpose what I thought of a particular team-mate of mine."

"Unfortunately for him I recognized his voice, so I think all the cameras got was me grinning and shaking my head!"

"I made my television debut the other day, on a programme called Amaranto, which is probably something along the lines of the Footy Show. "Amaranto is also the colour of our jersey, and we're called the Amaranti."

"In Serie Ca and Cb, two teams from each will go up to Serie B at the end of the season, with four teams coming down."

The two winners of the divisions automatically go up, while the teams which finish second to fifth go into a round robin tournament with semi finals and final, and then the winner of each of those also goes up to Serie B.

We're currently running seventh on 29 points and we're playing the team running fifth on 34 points on Sunday, so it's obviously a really important game with only 12 games or so left before the play-

[www.worldfootball.com.au](http://www.worldfootball.com.au)

presents

## The Global Edition of the Matildas Calendar And you can win it!!

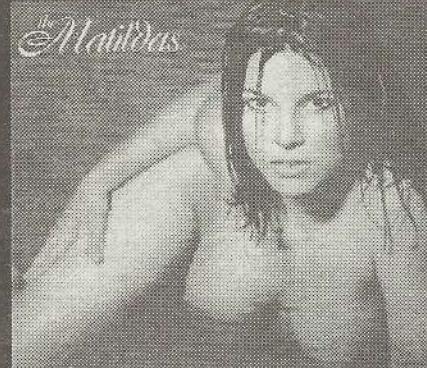
Answer the question below then cut out this ad and send it to INSIDE SOCCER PO BOX 3889 PARRAMATTA 2124.

You can send in as many times as you like but no photo-copies accepted. There will be two copies to be given away for lucky readers (these prizes are the Global edition of the Matildas Calendar, which have extra pics in them!).

The winners will be drawn on March 13 and winners printed in March 14 issue of Inside Soccer.

Question: Which African nation is due to play the Matildas in March?

Answer:



Name:

Address:

## Crazy John's State League Cup

**A**fter three years in the wilderness, the state league cup competition has been revitalised by Crazy John's and the Victoria Soccer Federation.

The event has pulled together all 60 clubs in the five Crazy John's State League Divisions to play off in the final to be held on May 17 at a venue to be determined.

Traditionally, the event took place at the completion of the Crazy John's State League, but it has been moved forward at the request of the clubs to provide a meaningful pre-season tournament.

Trevor Parry, VSF Commissioner, said "this competition not only provides clubs with opportunity to fine tune for the upcoming season, but also the opportunity for lower division clubs to battle clubs in the higher divisions for the prestige of being Cup Champions, and the

honour of winning silverware for their club. That's the romance of such a competition."

The opening round commenced last weekend with the sixty teams split into fifteen groups of four. The groups are based at venues right across the state for the first round.

The games are played as double headers at each venue, with shortened games in the first round because of the heat. Each team will play each other in their group over three weekends, with the top team in each group and the best placed second team progressing to make 16 teams in Round Two.

The competition then takes a knockout format until one team is left standing on May 17.



# CLARKE AND MLADENOVIC TURN IT ON FOR GREEN MACHINE

## Bentleigh Greens 3

Mladenovic 25", 50", Markovski 85"

## Altona East 0

Sunday afternoon at Kingston Heath Reserve, Cheltenham, Melbourne.

By Mark Fisher

Bentleigh were rather fortunate that their home fixture against Altona East on Sunday panned out like it did. Indeed, if goalkeeper Glenn Clarke hadn't been so acrobatic, the result could have well gone the other way.

Doug Mladenovic made sure that the Greens would remain a difficult opponent at home, when he scored a brace against the Phoenix, and Saso Markovski rounded off the win with a late shot firmly into the right side of the net five minutes before the end of regular time.

The early stages of the match in this fiery derby saw both teams jockey for possession in midfield.

Yet, in the twentieth minute Altona East looked to have lady luck smiling on them and not their challengers, when defender Theo Constantinou felt the ball faintly brush his hand just inside the area, earning Nick Papadopoulos a penalty from

the spot. Papadopoulos fired left but without much width, allowing Clarke's outstretched left arm to make sufficient contact with the strike in order to send it safely away.

The anguish of the miss came back to haunt Altona East.

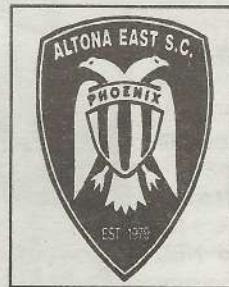
Doug Mladenovic earned himself a free kick some twenty-five metres out from goal at the other end of the park. He showed Papadopoulos how to convert a chance from a dead ball situation, when he fired over the wall and deep into the right of the net, beating 'keeper Sam Frangos in the process.

Bentleigh took the lead in the 25th minute, much to the relief of the home fans.

With confidence theirs, the Greens pressed hard down both flanks in search of a two-goal cushion before the break.

Their prospects of achieving that aim were helped when fresh substitute Bill Armour hacked down his opponent in Drew Laurence as Laurence made his way towards the penalty area.

Armour was incredulous when he witnessed match referee Senko Rastocic reach for the red card and not the yellow.



Down to ten men, the Phoenix were not able to rise like their fiery namesake and found the going most difficult thereafter.

And so it was that Bentleigh set up more chances during the second half as a result of their one-man advantage.

In the 50th minute a slick passing play involving substitute Jim Kotsovolos came to fruition. Kotsovolos passed sideways to Laurence, who in turn slipped an inside ball to Mladenovic, offering the rangey striker the chance to post his second goal, this time by way of a shot across goal from ten metres out.

Altona East had one real chance of their own in the 71st minute, courtesy of a pinpoint cross from Peter Groidis, yet Bill Petrovski (another substitute) fired high and wide when a goal looked to be in the offing.

During the last twenty minutes of the match, Bentleigh seemed to be engaged in crossing practice, with Drew Laurence, Harry Micheil, David Breslin and Doug Mladenovic all testing Altona East's defence in this manner.

Micheil at least managed to find his target man, when he fired in from the left and picked out late substitute Saso Markovski, who then appeared to turn and shoot in one delightful, flowing movement. His shot flew into the right section of the net, beyond the frustrated Phoenix goalkeeper Sam Frangos.

Bentleigh made the most of their fortunes on this occasion, and clearly went about their job in a no-frills manner.

The Greens possess more than adequate depth in their squad, and deserve to be rated as serious VPL title contenders as a result.

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Bentleigh Greens' danger man Harry Micheil. Help set up goal number three.

## BENTLEIGH GREENS

Clarke, Karapatsos (Kalimeris), Micheil, McDonagh, Constantinou, Drakos, Kourkoutzelos, Mladenovic, Hastie (Kotsovolos), Laurence (Markovski), Breslin

## ALTONA EAST PHOENIX

Frangos, R Antoniadis, Valentis, De Amicis, Dimitrelos (Armour), Donnelly (Angelos), T Antoniadis, Groidis, Bartol, Davis, Papadopoulos (Petrovski)

### Best Players:

3 - MLADENOVIC (BENTLEIGH)  
2 - Clarke (Bentleigh)  
1 - Laurence (Bentleigh)

Referee: Senko Rastocic

## FIRST GRADE:

ALTONA MAGIC 0  
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 3  
Atanasovski, Kutlesovski, own goal.

BENTLEIGH GREENS 3  
Mladenovic 2, Markovski.  
ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 0

## ST ALBANS SAINTS 4

Tazov 2, Zilic, own goal.  
PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS  
Poutakidis, Tsaltas, Tzirtis.

## PLAYING MONDAY:

BULLEEN ZEBRAS v  
PRESTON LIONS  
HEIDELBERG UNITED v

## FAWKNER BLUES

MELBOURNE RAIDERS v  
OAKLEIGH CANNONS

## RESERVES:

Altona Magic 1 Green Gully 4

Bentleigh Greens 4 Altona East 0

St Albans Saints 1 Port Melbourne 1

## Playing Monday:

Bulleen Zebras v Preston Lions

Heideberg Utd. v Fawkner Blues

Melb. Raiders v Oakleigh Cannons

## VPL TABLES

### FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
GREEN GULLY CAV	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Altona East Phoenix	4	3	0	1	5	5	9
St Albans Saints	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Bentleigh Greens	4	2	0	2	6	3	6
Altona Magic	3	0	1	0	5	4	5
Preston Lions	3	1	2	0	3	3	4
Oakleigh Cannons	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Bulleen Zebras	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Fawkner Blues	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Heidelberg United	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
Port Melb. Sharks	4	1	0	3	7	11	3
Melbourne Raiders	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

### TOP GOALSCORERS:

OPAZO(HEID)	3
Becvinovski(GGC)	2
Collina(PMe)	2
Lazarevski(MeiR)	2
Mladenovic(BenG)	2
Spink(BulZ)	2
Tazov(StAlb)	2
Zilic(StAlb)	2

### RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
PORT MELB. SHARKS	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
Bentleigh Greens	4	3	0	1	16	3	9
St Albans Saints	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Green Gully Cav	4	2	1	1	11	5	7
Altona East Phoenix	4	1	2	1	5	8	5
Melbourne Raiders	3	1	1	1	10	6	4
Preston Lions	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Altona Magic	4	1	1	2	8	13	4
Preston Lions	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Fawkner Blues	3	1	0	2	5	10	3
Heidelberg United	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Oakleigh Cannons	3	0	1	2	1	10	1

## VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE



eat well live well



## ROUND FIVE

Friday 3 March

Port Melbourne Sharks v Altona Magic  
SS Anderson Reserve - 7.00(First Grade)/5.00(Reserves)

Sunday 5 March

Green Gully Cavaliers v Oakleigh - Green Gully Reserve  
Fawkner Blues v St Albans Saints - CB Smith Reserve  
Preston Lions v Heidelberg United - BT Connor Reserve  
Altona East Phoenix v Bulleen Zebras - Paisley Reserve  
Bentleigh Greens v Melbourne Raiders - Kingston Heath S.C.  
All Games - 5.00(First Grade)/3.00Reserves)



## READERS' FORUM

Firstly, as I am a close family member of a Spirit player, I want to express how shocked, hurt and completely disgusted I am with this statement made by John Kosmina (Inside Soccer Feb 22 Quotes of the Week). How dare he publicly criticise a professional soccer player of another club. If John wishes to speak like that of his own players then it is the club's (Brisbane Strikers) business, but to speak so low of players whom he has no personal or professional business with, is not tolerable.

Secondly, what John 'hears is right', these players are on a great wage; and good luck to them.

It's about time soccer was taken more seriously in this country. A statement like this only proves that jealousy is a curse.

Just because he didn't earn a quarter of what these players are earning today, he has to make himself look better in the public eye by rubbishing those who are succeeding.

To say they are not worth 10% of what they are earning goes to show how much this person knows about soccer.

I still have the tape of an 'on the ball' episode where Andy Harper, a former Brisbane Strikers player, described my family member as "setting the park on fire..... a nightmare to defend against.... (and) his ability to dribble defenders, turn defenders is just superb."

If that kind of talent is not worth 10% of a wage then I really don't know what is.

In another article I read on the same day, Kosmina said: "Players today want to get involved in areas that they shouldn't, especially with outbreaks to the media..."

This is rich coming from a coach who has nothing to do with Northern Spirit, the players involved or the whole affair. He doesn't even know the facts,

so who is he to get involved?

He has only heard one side of the story, like many people. These players are standing up for something they have a right to.

One of the players involved is chasing a medical bill from 18 months ago which is ludicrous. What is the union there for if players can't speak to them about legal advice?

This whole incident is rather unfortunate as Brisbane Strikers are (or were) my second team.

I have attended every Strikers match which has been played in my home state since they won the grand final in 1997, and up until now I had respect for Kosmina as a coach and as a person.

I thoroughly enjoy watching the Strikers play. There is little violence during their matches making most of the players on the park seem like down to earth guys - a far cry from their coach.

Another aspect I must say I am completely disgusted with is the consistent use of foul language used by this coach.

This seems to be a John Kosmina trait. In almost every article I have read, there has been some form of swearing used.

Not only is he portraying a bad image for himself but it is also disgracing the club.

Does he think that this does not hurt the player or his families involved?

The player is infuriated by this comment but has refrained from commenting - only because he does not want to stoop to such a low level. And as for the families, well I guess you can figure out from this letter how we all feel.

This kind of behaviour John has expressed is expected from teenage school girls, but a grown man should know better.

'Angry'  
Hurstville, NSW

# Vinko Buljubasic

## with Daniela

Vinko, you broke your leg in a league game back in December 1998. Watching the game from the sidelines must be difficult?

It's been very difficult. I've even had to change my running style. I have not played a competitive game in 15 months, and because I've just had some more pins removed, I must wait another 4-5 weeks before I start training again.

Having had so many pins and screws inserted into your leg, you must be sending those airport metal detectors haywire?

Yes. I've been through a few that have been going off.

You are a two-time NSL medalist with the Melbourne Knights. Do you have fond memories playing at Somers Street?

That was definitely the greatest experience of my sporting life. I hope to win a few more before I hang up my boots - which won't be for a while!

I recall a game in the 1996/97 season when Perth Glory was set to play the Melbourne Knights for a berth in the finals series. Knights supporters can be quite vocal, as you well know. Lining up against your old team at Somers Street must have been quite daunting.

I recall there being a big crowd, and I didn't really know what to expect. Perth needed a draw, and although I was disappointed we didn't make it, I was happy for the Knights to be in the six rather than anyone else.

Perth Glory attracts a strong crowd each week. It must be an amazing buzz to be part of an NSL club that receives such phenomenal support?

Yes, you never expect so many people to come through the gates. The W.A. public is very vocal, and definitely behind you. It's great for soccer in Perth, W.A. and Australia. It is the closest thing we have to Europe.

What is it about soccer that you miss the most?

The competitiveness, the passion and the need to win.

Successful athletes realise the importance of goals. To set a goal give you direction. It gives you a point to aim for. What are some of your short and long term goals?

At the moment to get back out on the park before the end of the season, and to do what I did before and win a championship - that's what we play for.

When an injured athlete is out of action, he often becomes a coach from the sideline. Vinko how is the team doing on the park?

The team is doing quite well. I've actually attended our national coaching course, which I should hopefully finish in the next year. I'll be the youngest coach in the league!

And off the park how are the boys doing?

That stays between four walls. Off the park we do promotional work, visit schools, hospitals, hold soccer clinics, interviews, commercials.



What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

That they're big-headed.

What are the qualities of a good coach?

Communication and leadership, and using tactics to the team's ability.

Perth Glory announced it would not retain coach Bernd Stange when his contract expires at the end of the season. Stange came to Perth Glory with a mentality based on competitiveness, and a philosophy based on hard training. He is a crowd pleaser. But, what impact has his overseas techniques had on Glory as a team?

The difference is his wealth of experience. Obviously having come from Germany, his type of training and professionalism most players in Australia have not learnt yet.

With so much spare time these days, what are some of Vinko Buljubasic's off-field pastimes?

Promoting the game and club, and coaching kids. Hopefully as I gain experience I'll be able to coach the older and more senior squads.

I hear that you've become an avid fan of 'Bold and the Beautiful' - I missed Friday's episode, can you fill me in?

Becky found out that Amber's child is really hers. She was changing the nappy and saw that the birthmark belonged to the baby she gave away for adoption, and so she runs away with it.

If you could have any supernatural power what would it be?

I'm happy the way I am, and I'll leave it to God.

You once said that you would like to show the guy who broke your leg how to tackle. He is now one of your teammates. Have the two of you ever been out for a quiet beer?

No!.....No comment!

*Vinko Buljubasic*



Sir Stanley Matthews: one of the true greats who was never booked in his career.

An inspiration to all footballers in this new millennium. R.I.P.

## ANISSA TANN-DARBY COMMENTS ON ...

## THE FINANCIAL REALITY OF WOMEN'S FOOTY

The Matildas recently came third in a four nation tournament with the USA, Sweden and the Czech Republic. Despite beating the Czech Republic 3-0 we were narrowly defeated 2-0 by Sweden and 3-1 by the USA.

Also it must be added that this was a young USA side due to the Team USA industrial action, though since then a number of these players have graduated into April Heinrich's new team.

One of the first questions I was asked by a journalist after the series was "has the massive government funding by the Australian Sports Commission been well spent?"

The answer very simple was YES, for if it was not for the funding by the government we would not be competitive on the world stage.

If we accept the USA, China and Norway are the "first world" of football, then Australia is claiming to be in the second world with the likes of Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Brazil.

Five years ago it would have been fair to say we were still a developing nation and although we got an occasional good result we were occasionally "hampered", usually by the USA.

We now produce consistent results of a more realistic scoring ratio; we also now hammer the teams from the developing nations.

The funding has been fantastic for the female game in Australia and the unusual situation of praise for the administration must be given.

A lot of hard work behind the scenes in political lobbying and raising the media profile of the team has led to our unprecedented funding.

This funding has allowed a residential program to be initiated; two full time coaches to be employed, full time administrators and medical and sports science support staff to be utilised from the prestigious Australian Institute of Sport.

It has also meant that a state based national league has been introduced, so in essence the top 100 female players can compete on a regular basis in the Ansett Summer League.

Before this league our competition of the elite was an annual tournament where eight games were played on a

**The Australian players receive approx 140 Australian dollars a week, from this they must pay all food, rent and transport and private medical care.**

daily basis. This process meant that a top player could be injured on the first day and therefore miss out on national selection.

The Ansett Summer League has allowed a far more sophisticated Talent identification process to emerge.

A recent example of this has been the inclusion of 17 year old Heather Garriock from NSW and Belinda Dawney from Qld into the Olympic Squad.

However, this funding must be put in perspective. For in comparison to the excellent deal that the USA players fought and won it is in reality comparatively small change.

The USA players have to be congratulated for their action, not only in its out-

come but also in the way that they showed solidarity with each other and fought as a team.

A situation that if we are to be honest is not a common occurrence in female teams. Too often females are divided and conquer in industrial actions and whilst the game is amateur, this was always going to be the case.

Now that the game is hurtling towards professionalism, acts such as the USA team are going to occur more, especially in contract negotiation, and product endorsement.

As any male professional player will tell you, it is only a short career, but it is a career and negotiation for rights is an inevitable reality.

The Australian players receive approx 140 Australian dollars a week, from this they must pay all food, rent and transport and private medical care.

Plus the other necessities of life such as utility bills and phones. No players are going to retire on this salary.

Sadly many of the players will retire after the Olympics for in reality they will not be able to continue after this ultimate goal of Sydney 2000. That's the harsh economic reality.

The players have fit in part time jobs around training, which range from cleaning buses, relief teaching, through to stacking shelves in a supermarket.

Yes, the USA girls would laugh at this economic scenario, but whilst there is not way around it, the Australian girls have to adapt to this situation and tough it out until September.

So if any body ever criticises the USA girls in their fight for equity remind them of the Australian scenario.



Anissa Tann-Darby

Encourage them to keep raising the profile of women's soccer and the sponsor dollars may well flow around the world and hopefully reach "down under" before the Olympics.

It's hard work but women's football has always been that way, and what we as players, coaches and administrators do now is pave the way for better conditions for our successors just like the girls a decade ago who had to pay for the privilege of playing for their country in the 1991 FIFA World Cup.

Women's sport is progressing, we therefore have to keep high standards, keep up the political lobbying and most of all, keep the quality of football high, for in the real world that is the most persuasive argument for change.

## Take a walk on the WILD SIDE

When Inside Soccer's Social Affairs Consultant Melissa Muscat was recently spotted holidaying in Brisbane, she sought out the locals down at Suncorp Metway Stadium for info on what was happening around town.

Whilst contemplating who to ask, not one, but three of the Strikers' funny men volunteered where the best places are in Brisbane, and to spill the dirt on certain team mates.

After 20 minutes deciding between a pizza or a focaccia at Park Rd's *La Dolce Vita*, Clint Bolton, Jeremy Harris and Stuart McLaren, better known as the three amigos, revealed all...

**Fav night spot:**

S: Hotel L.A. Bar

C&J: Players

**Fav cafe:**

C&J: See above

S: Bentons

**Fav shopping spot:**

C: See above

J: Debate between Coles and Woolies.

**Fav beach:**

Noosa

**Fav sporting venue:**

J: Milton Bowling Alley

S&C: Suncorp Metway Stadium

**Funniest team mate:** Nick Meredith

**Quote of the season:** Give it to me

Ditz!

**Funniest thing you've witnessed all season at training:** Daniel Duke getting hit in the groin every 10 minutes at shooting practice.

**Which Brisbane Striker has the most unusual pet and what is it?:**

S: Jeremy and Clint have a beaded dragon and four blue tongue lizards.

**Who has the most unusual occupation or hobby outside of Soccer and what is it?:**

S: The three of us are Chief Female Standard Inspectors for the Queen Street Mall.

**Who has ever had the most head turning hair style and what was it?:**

C: Paul Foster has a white patch and it could be mistaken for bird droppings.

**Who is the worst singer?:** (Chay Hews over hears...) David Pilic, he was singing *Human Nature* in the taxi last night. I wanted out!

**Who is the most musically talented?:**

C: I play a mean recorder - Hot Cross Buns.

**Which of your team mates is the most successful with the women?:** (All point to each other)

C: Are we talking quality or quantity?

**Who is the most romantic team mate?:**

C: Chay Hews. He has been described by his fiancee as the perfect

man.

**What is the best excuse you've heard for someone not training this season?:**

C: Chay: "I was in Japan."

**Which team mate is most likely to get hooked on daytime soaps?:**

C: Brad Ditton - his life is a soap opera.

**Who's got the brains of the team?:**

S: Me! (Apparently it was proven in a Brisbane newspaper!)

**Which Brisbane Striker can consume the most alcohol?:**

J: Glen Gwynne is a nose ahead of Mark Battistin

**Are there any superstitions that the Strikers have as a team which they carry out before a game?:**

J: We sacrifice a live chicken.

**Have there been any outings where your team has got into any mischief? If so, give details:**

J&C: Have you got a few books and about an hour? Too many to list.

**Who would most likely get their nose, tongue or eyebrow pierced?:**

J: Brad Ditton.

**Which of your team mates would we most likely see strut**

**ting his stuff on the catwalk?:**

C: All three of us and Chay have been in a brochure.

**Who would be most likely to wear a dress in public as part of a dare?**

(Chay Hews over hears again...) Stuart, the brains of the team!

(Funny that, in a recent interview with Sydney United, Ray Younis was nominated for the exact same two categories!)

**Which two players are inseparable and what's the craziest thing they've ever done together?:**

C: Stuart and Jeremy were thrown out of Players!

S: Can you tell me when this is being published so I don't show my wife!

**Thanks for being great sports guys. Good luck for the remainder of the season and we hope to see you in the play offs.**

C, S & J: Thanks Melissa. Come to Brisbane anytime.

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# Sydney Utd president MARKO FRANOVIC 'jobs for the boys culture must end'

**F**or some people, twenty four hours in a day is sufficient to complete their day's work.

However, in the cause of promoting the development of Australian football, Marko Franovic, the president of Sydney United and successful entrepreneur, time has no limits.

A devoted fan of the club since 1964 when the club was competing in the N.S.W. Federation First Division, Franovic proudly reminisces the talents of Ron Giles, Dennis Wright, John Doyle, Ray and Frank Cush, Dennis and John Yaeger, Brian Lincoln and the flamboyance brilliance of the Argentinians Eduardo Massey, Jorge Ledezma and Juan Puig.

At the start of the new millennium, Marko Franovic faces one of the greatest challenges of his life as he fights for the survival of Sydney United in the NSL.

In this interview with Roger Sleeman, Franovic talks about his commitment to Sydney United, his thoughts about the N.S.L. and his burning desire to see Australian football become a major force in Australian sport.

#### ROGER SLEEMAN

Why would a successful businessman like yourself become involved with a sport which never seems to go anywhere?

#### MARKO FRANOVIC

For years I'd been sitting on the sidelines as a major sponsor, just enjoying the football.

However, when Sydney United was facing extinction at the start of the 1998/99 season, I decided the time was right to use my business experience and skills to assist the club in its survival strategy.

I suppose it would've been easy to ignore the plight of the club but I was the only person round at the time who could take the necessary steps to guarantee a future for the club.

Consequently, after a thirty-five-year association with the club from the grandstand, I became president in October 1998.

R.S. When Sydney Croatia was forced to change its name to Sydney

United there was a groundswell of opposition from your supporters. Is the feeling still prevalent the name change led to a decline in your support base?

M.F. Certainly we may have lost some part of the club's identity which influenced a temporary loss of some traditional support base but the fact is Sydney United is more important as a name than Sydney Croatia was.

Other clubs covet this name and we will do everything to preserve the name and keep the club in the NSL.

I believe the events of 1993 are now largely forgotten and even the oldest supporters are proud of our name.

R.S. Is it difficult for a club like yours with such proud traditions to identify with the wider community?

M.F. If we are to survive, there is no choice and we must open our doors and minds to all people because the NSL cannot cater for every little club and interest group.

R.S. Are Australians really interested in football beyond the recreational level?

M.F. We have a long way to go to catch the other codes and there always has been the big gap between the senior and junior game.

The game needs greater publicity and we must plea with the press to recognize the potential of the game and foster a strong working relationship with the major power brokers.

R.S. What is your opinion of the administration in our game?

M.F. What the game needs is strict guidelines ... the administrators who have been around for so long haven't achieved much in this direction.

The clubs are carrying the can with very little input provided by the roof bodies.

R.S. Is the current administration suitably qualified to take the game forward?

M.F. Historically, appointments have been made on the basis of jobs for the boys, rather than on merit.

I'm sick and tired of this situation because it's holding a foot on the brakes for the future of football.

We should be proud of our sport in this country but the only time that happens is when we achieve success at international level.

How can we have pride when attendances at senior football are so small except for a few clubs and the game receives so little coverage in the mass media.

It's an insult and an embarrassment to me when the game should be a source of enjoyment and pride.

R.S. Are you challenging the administration to hand the game over to people with proven track records?

M.F. I'm not challenging the administrators but merely offering help. The last thing I want is confrontation because all I want to see is the game become a second religion like in Europe.

My own businesses will never fail because they're run on sound business principles and a tight structure.

We need a new structure with new blood. If we continue with all these new proposals and plans and we don't know where we're going from week to week, the game will continue to be a laughing stock amongst the general sporting community.

R.S. Why don't you form a sub committee with people like Tony Petty, Nick Tana and Nick Politis to turn the fortunes of the game around?

M.F. This is a possibility but it would depend on the availability of these people. The important thing is we're all highly successful in our business endeavours so we should be listened to.

At the moment all we're doing is putting money into the game which shows no growth potential and as financial stakeholders we deserve better.

R.S. In what areas does the game need change?

M.F. Unless Soccer Australia implements a workable marketing plan, clubs will continue to struggle without sufficient crowd support. Look at clubs like Marconi, Northern Spirit and Parramatta Power which spend large amounts on marketing with varying results.

The marketing must be organized from the top down so we all can participate in a combined plan at a national level.

The other area to be addressed is the drop in playing standards. The coaching setup is another example where jobs for the boys applies so once again we must choose personnel based on merit rather than on connections.

The secret to success in business is when your product and marketing are of the highest order.

R.S. Can you account for Sydney United's below par performance this season?

M.F. Without wishing to denigrate the current players, the fact remains we lost almost the entire grand final team from last year to Parramatta Power so how could any club recover from such a disaster?

Nevertheless, I agree entirely with Ivan Petkovic's assessment after the Marconi match when he described the players as "unfit".

From minor premiers to last in one season would be a bitter pill to swallow but we mustn't dwell on the past and only look forward to improve our performances for the remainder of the season.

R.S. Can Sydney United meet the criteria set out in Soccer 21 by 2001/2002 season?

M.F. This club was in receivership from September, 1998 and it is only this month that the administrator has handed the operating affairs back to the club board of management.

I believe this was a tremendous accomplishment to achieve in such a short time.

However, all clubs would agree that one year isn't enough to satisfy the demands of this document.

What we require is positive and sustainable changes because who will invest in a business which has limited life with the prospect of having to reapply for the NSL one year later.

Despite our great history, if we were forced to reapply who would play for a club which couldn't offer security?

## BUY-OUT RAISES ETHICAL ISSUES FOR SOCCER

By Bruce Holloway

**S**occer fans have generally welcomed Sky Television's intention to purchase 80 per cent of the Football Kingz.

The deal looks a life-saver for the troubled Kingz, with the financial and marketing clout of Sky set to ensure the future of New Zealand's first professional club.

But the buy-out does raise some major ethical issues for soccer.

As part of the deal Sky has - out of the blue - been given a seat on the New Zealand Soccer board and awarded television rights for top domestic matches.

Somehow a club ownership issue has spilled over into the wider domain of governance of the code.

The boundary between a club's interest and the independent function of a national association has been curiously blurred by the prospect of getting on side

with a major player in New Zealand broadcasting.

The national body has effectively been used as a bidding chip by a cash-strapped club, assisted by the fact New Zealand Soccer chairman Kevin Stratford is also a director of the Football Kingz.

Soccer politics has a convoluted history in New Zealand but this stunt must take the cake as both the most imaginative and manipulative piece of deal-making ever done.

Strategic soccer-media tie-ups have become the rage worldwide over the past 12 months.

In the UK, cable operator NTL recently paid \$NZ84 million for a 9.9 per cent stake in Aston Villa. In December the same company bought a 9.7 per cent slice of Newcastle United.

BSkyB owns up to 9.9 per cent of the shares in Manchester United, Leeds, Sunderland and Manchester City.

Granada owns a stake in Liverpool while Carlton has an interest in Arsenal.

With the convergence of internet, telephone and television technologies,

these buy-ins represent strategic positioning for future lucrative broadcasting rights, and it must be said they usually return useful benefits for the game.

But even the most craven overseas club, and the most bullying trans-national corporate hasn't managed to swing the sort of power-brokering deal we're now seeing in New Zealand, with a broadcaster given a seat on a national body.

This is the first time Sky has extended its interest in a code beyond seeking broadcasting rights, though the company has drawn a parallel with its foray into Cricket Max.

But the most remarkable aspect of the Sky deal has been the muted opposition, from soccer circles, despite it seemingly cutting across NZS promises of a more open management style, and greater transparency.

Former NZS chairman Dave Lamont - now a current board member - has been one of the few to speak out.

He said events left him feeling "like I'm in a dinghy with no oars", after the NZS board's most recent meeting was

cancelled "because there was nothing to discuss".

Amazingly, it's been Lamont who has coped the criticism for publicising his dissatisfaction, even though the deal has never been approved by the board.

Indeed, the day the deal was announced, NZS chief executive Bob Patterson was busy stitching together broadcast rights with Sky rival TVNZ.

The Kingz and Sky are the big winners here.

The loser could well be Wellington-based cable TV company Saturn, who had planned to do free-to-air coverage of this winter's national league matches.

But longer-term, the biggest casualty could be the credibility of soccer administrators.

\*This article appeared in the City Weekender in Hamilton, New Zealand. Bruce Holloway is the editor of Sitter!, the NZ Soccer Fanzine. See ad in this issue. February edition of Sitter! out shortly.

## NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND TWENTY FOUR

## ADELAIDE CITY FORCE v SYDNEY UNITED

1	Vilson Knezevic
2	Ivan Zelic
3	Alex Tobin
4	Carlo Talladira
5	Damian Mori
6	Carl Veart
7	Nick Sabljak
8	Aurelio Vidmar
9	Nathan Day
10	John Fusco
11	Michael Cartwright
12	Louis Brain
13	Matthew Kemp
14	Angelo Costanzo
15	Bradley Hassell
16	Dong Ki Kim
17	Attilio Hornjik
18	Jonathan Lihou
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	



1	John Crawley
2	Ray Younis
3	Mark Racker
4	Velimir Kupresak
5	Eddie Bosnar
6	Vince Savocca
7	Mirko Jurilj
8	Nahuel Arrarte
9	Mario Jermen
10	Ante Moric
11	Tom Podeljak
12	Tom Maric
13	Matthew Zec
14	Kain Rastall
15	Aytec Genc
16	Joe Moric
17	Nick Bovevski
18	Steve Bozinovski
19	Greg Saric
20	Steve Tolios
21	Zvonko Usljebrka
22	Colin Luff
23	Terry Palapanis
24	Andy Rakic
25	Ante Deak
30	Brett Hughes



Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium - Friday 3 February 2000 8.00PM  
 Head to Head: Played 32 Force wins: 10 United wins: 10 Draws 12  
 Last Week: Force 1-2 away win over Carlton  
 United 1-2 home loss to Knights

## BRISBANE STRIKERS v PERTH GLORY

1	Clint Bolton
2	Glenn Gwynne
3	Shane Stefanutto
4	Andrew Davidson
5	Matthew Belli
6	Brad Ditton
7	Shane Smeltz
8	David Pilic
9	Paul Foster
10	Wayne Srhoj
11	Chay Hews
12	Peter Dwyer
13	Stuart McLaren
14	Jade North
15	Mark Battistin
16	Peter Grierson
17	Jeromy Harris
18	Nick Meredith
19	Wade Baldwin
20	Daniel Duke



1	Tom Tomich
2	Robert Trajkovski
3	Jamie Harnwell
4	Vinko Buljubasic
5	Gareth Naven
6	Scott Miller
7	Troy Halpin
8	Alistair Edwards
9	Bobby Despotoski
10	Kasey Wehrman
11	Peter Buljan
12	Jamos Afkos
13	Dion Valle
14	Edgar Junior
15	Con Boutsianis
16	Vas Kalogeracos
17	Hamilton Thorp
18	John Carbone
19	Tony Franken
20	Ivan Ergic
21	Ljubo Milicevic
22	Jason Petkovic
23	Aaron Cole
24	Gary Faria



Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium - Saturday 4 March 2000 7.00PM  
 Head to Head: Played 7 Strikers wins: 3 Glory wins: 3 Draws 1  
 Last week: Strikers 1-1 away draw with Power  
 Glory 3-2 home win over Cosmos

## MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v SOUTH MELBOURNE

2	Joey Rayher
3	Ivan Jolic
4	Ante Kovacevic
5	Jason Vukadin
6	John Didulica
7	Mark Silic
8	Dragi Nastevski
9	Ivan Kelic
10	Paul Urlovic
11	Mijo Trupkovic
12	Murtala Toyin Abbas
13	Lance Plunkett
14	Paul Magdic
15	Ransford Banini
16	Alex Kriatoglou
17	Brandon Vassalo
18	Roddy Vargas
19	Zlatko Maglic
20	Martin John
21	Zeljko Susa
22	Steven Tillinger
23	Michael Reda
24	Hrvoje Matkovic
25	Adrian Cervinski
26	Marko Prskalo
30	Lupce Acevski



1	Milan Udvaracz
2	Steve Iosifidis
3	Fausto de Amicis
4	Nick Orlic
5	Con Blatsis
6	David Clarkson
7	Steve Panopoulos
8	Vaughan Coveny
9	Paul Trimboli
10	Michael Curcija
11	John Anastasiadis
12	Richie Alagich
13	Adrian Cuzzape
14	Anthony Magnacca
15	Goran Lozanovski
16	George Goutzoulis
17	Jim Tsekinis
18	Robert Liparoti
19	Tasos Psonis
20	Chris Jones
21	Rade Culbirk
22	Mustafa Mustafa
23	Chris Roche
24	Andy Vlahos



Venue: Knights Stadium - Sunday 5 March 2000 6.00PM  
 Head to Head: Played 45 Knights wins: 10 South wins: 19 Draws 16  
 Last week: Knights 1-2 away win over Sydney United  
 South 1-2 home loss to Marconi

## FOOTBALL KINGZ v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

1	Michael Utting
2	Che Bunce
3	Riki Van Steeden
4	Fabio Macolino
5	Jonathon Perry
6	Marcus Stergiopoulos
7	Wynton Rufer
8	Chris Jackson
9	Fred de Jong
10	Dino Mennillo
11	Robbie Middleby
12	Harry Ngata
13	Levent Osman
14	Batum Suri
15	Ivan Vicelich
16	Lee Jones
17	Mark Elrick
18	Stuart Riddle
19	Leigh Kenyon
20	Jason Batty
21	David Moya
22	Aaron Silva
23	Simon Eddy
24	Ross Nicholson



1	Jim Kourtis
2	Scott Thomas
3	Chris Zoricich
4	Peter Tsekenis
5	Scott Baillie
6	Ante Juric
7	Zlatko Arambasic
8	Marcus Phillips
9	Pablo Cardozo
10	Brett Emerton
11	Chris Kalantzis
12	Sebastian Sinozic



Venue: North Harbour Stadium - Friday 3 February 2000 7.30PM  
 Head to Head: Played 1 Kingz wins: 1 Olympic wins: 0 Draws 0  
 Last Week: Kingz 3-1 away loss to Wolves  
 Olympic 3-1 home win over Spirit

## GIPPSLAND FALCONS v PARRAMATTA POWER

1	Bojo Jevdjevic
2	Dean Fak
3	Manny Gotis
4	Mehmed Durakovic
5	Jeff Hopkins
6	Brian MacNichol
7	Andy Vargas
8	Clayton Bell
9	Robbie Puca
10	Sandy Robertson
11	John Hutchinson
12	Peter Kakos
13	Adrian Savage
14	Doug Marcina
15	Jonathon Buhuglar
16	Juan Nilo
18	Michael Katz
19	Igor Mandic
20	Simon Miotto
21	Ben Cassar



1	Andrew Crews
2	David Barrett
3	Michael Santalab
4	Steve Eagleton
5	Richard Plesa
6	Joe Vrkic
7	Jacob Burns
8	Walter Ardone
9	Mile Sterjovski
10	Joel Griffiths
11	Steve Berry
12	Stephen Laybutt
13	Milan Blagojevic
14	John Angelucci
15	Danny Townsend
16	Mark Byrnes
17	Danny Kukucka
18	Lachlan Campbell
19	Matt Thompson
20	Barney Smith
21	Ahmid Elrich
23	John Gibson
28	Peter Bennett
30	Mike Gibson



Venue: Falcons Stadium - Saturday 4 March 2000 7.

LIVE FRIDAY 3 MARCH 7.30

## C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

### NORTHERN SPIRIT V WOLLONGONG WOLVES



**SPIRIT**  
1 John Perosh  
2 Robert Enes  
3 Matthew Langdon  
4 Matthew Bingley  
5 Mark Rudan  
6 Luke Casserley (below)  
7 Robbie Slater  
8 Tony Perinich  
9 David Seal  
10 Nicola Berti  
11 Troy Cranney  
12 Simon Catanzaro  
13 Philip Moss  
14 Shane Lyons  
15 Anthony Faria  
17 Paul Bilokapic  
18 Paul Wearne  
19 Graham Arnold  
20 Jess Van Stratten  
21 Michael Cunico  
22 Paul Henderson  
23 Adam Snyder  
24 Elvis Olic  
25 Ryan Griffiths  
26 Jack Sobczyk  
27 Adam Griffiths  
28 Abbas Saad  
30 Sean Cranney  
31 Michael Prentice

**WOLVES**  
1 Leslie Pogliacomi  
2 George Souris  
3 Alvin Ceccoli  
4 Robert Stanton  
5 David Cervinski  
6 Matthew Horsley  
7 Paul Reid  
8 Anthony Surjan  
9 Sasho Dimoski  
10 Stuart Young  
11 Scott Chipperfield  
12 Neil Harlock  
13 Noel Spencer  
14 Saso Petrovski  
15 David Huxley  
16 Peter Lahanas  
17 Esala Masi  
18 Chad Bishop  
19 Paul Dimech  
20 Daniel Berlirame  
21 Christian Zelvis



Venue: North Sydney Oval  
Friday 3 March 7.30PM  
Head-to-Head: 3  
Spirit: 1  
Wolves: 2  
Draws: 0  
Last Week: Spirit 3-1 away loss to Olympic  
Wolves 3-1 home win over Kingz



LIVE SUNDAY 5 MARCH 6.00

## C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

### MARCONI STALLIONS V NEWCASTLE BREAKERS



**STALLIONS**  
1 Michael Turnbull  
2 Chad Gibson  
3 Mark Babic  
4  
5 Dominic Longo  
6 Pan-Keum Kim  
7 Christian Care  
8 Darren McDonald  
9 Zeljko Babic  
10 Brad Maloney  
11 Mike Smith  
12  
13 Danny Invincible  
14 Buddy Farah  
15 Pierluigi di Gia  
16  
17 Francis Awaritefe  
18 Harry Karl  
19 Brendan Renaud  
20 David Aceski  
21 Paolo Marchesini  
22 Kris Trajanovski (below)  
23 Vlado Zoric  
24 Josaia Junior Sauturaga  
25  
26 Daniel Severino

**BREAKERS**  
1 Bob Catlin  
2 Shane Pryce  
3 Andrew Roberts  
4 Adam Sanderson  
5 Todd McManus  
6 Glenn Sprod  
7 Travis Dodd  
8 Mark Wilson  
9 Chris Tancheski  
10 John Buonavoglia  
11 Luke Tomich  
12 Robert Angievski  
13 Brad Wieczorek  
14 Greg Owens  
15 Joshua Ferguson  
16 Vasko Trpcevski  
17 Paul Wheeler  
18 Andrew Harper  
19 Chad Mansley  
20 Bradley Swancott  
21 Peter Juchniewicz  
22 Glenn Moore  
23 Damien Smith  
30 Jason Kos



Venue: Marconi Stadium  
Sunday 5 March 6.00PM  
Head to Head: 16  
Stallions: 11  
Breakers 3  
Draws: 2  
Last Week: Stallions 1-2 away win over South Melbourne  
Breakers 2-0 home win over Falcons



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